

RECORD

SUMMER 2003

**Literacy:
Light for Learning**
page 4

**Something New
Under the Sun**
page 12

A Summer Adventure
page 14

Rescued Lives
page 21

A young girl with dark skin and short hair is the central focus of the cover. She is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt under a dark red or maroon vest. She is looking down intently at an open book she is holding with both hands. The background is a textured, reddish-brown wall, possibly made of mud or brick. The overall lighting is warm and natural.

**A Bible for
Every Person**

Opportunity 21 confronts the challenge

Is Scripture Relevant?

(Jesus) said, "It is too bad that today your people don't know what will bring them peace!" — Luke 19.41 (CEV)

In a culture where technology is the queen and scientific knowledge the prince, how can a collection of ancient writings be relevant? What meaning can the Bible have for me today? That fewer and fewer Westerners read God's Word would indicate that for many the answer is, "Not much!"

But are the basic issues of life any different here than in areas of the world experiencing spiritual revival and church growth? We have made tremendous technological strides in our "developed" corner of the world — people live longer, modern conveniences allow us more time for entertainment and recreation — for what the French religious philosopher Blaise Pascal called "distractions."

Our access to information is increasing exponentially, deluging us with information overload. A popular magazine recently ran a cover story about the challenge of managing the onslaught of new data. But as I walk the city streets and overhear cell phone conversations, I am bemused that, while we have unprecedented means to communicate, there's little evidence that we have very much worth saying.

As life for each of us draws to a close, what difference will all this technology and comfort have made? Inevitably, we will all face the question "Is this all there is?" American author John Cheever wrote that the main emotion of the adult Northeastern American who has had all the advantages of wealth, education and culture is disappointment. Surrounding ourselves with distractions — with information and entertainment — often belies an endless round of business in which we attempt to avoid either boredom or depression.

So the question remains, "Who are we?" In *Lost in the Cosmos*, Walker Percy wrote, "The modern objective consciousness will go to any length to prove that it is not unique in the Cosmos, and by this very effort establishes its uniqueness. Name another entity in the Cosmos that tries to prove that it is not unique."

In this issue we give an update on *Opportunity 21*, a four-year-old global Scripture-sharing effort representing hundreds of programs in hundreds of countries that are satisfying the spiritual hunger of millions. Many of the people reached through *Opportunity 21*, though materially deprived, find hope and joy and love in living. They know, through God's Word, that they are God's children, and they receive life-sustaining power and hope from the relationship. That, for me, defines relevance.



Eugene B. Habecker

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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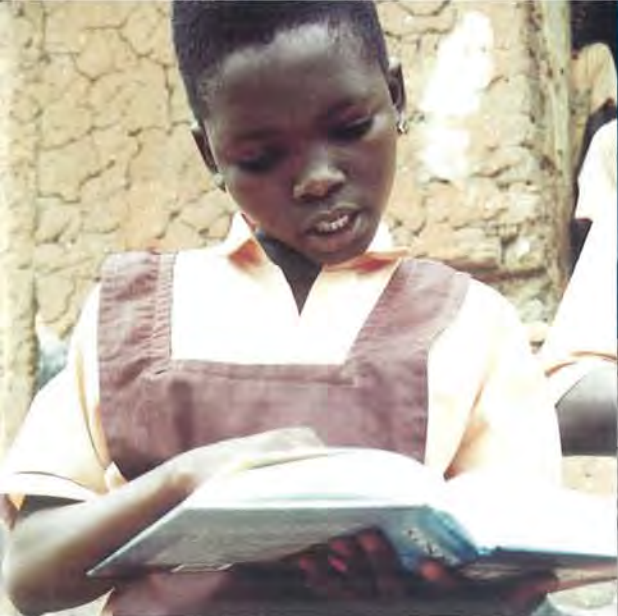
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The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of Bible societies throughout the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

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RECORD

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FEATURES

4
ON THE ROAD TO INDIANAPOLIS
Literacy program touches children

6
A BIBLE FOR EVERY PERSON
Opportunity 21 confronts the challenge

12
SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SON
Hip-hop in Jesus' name

14
CAMP CHERITH
A summer adventure that shapes lives

21
HOMELESS IN MIAMI
Street smart enough to know what counts

22
A PROVIDER WHO KNOWS THE GREAT PROVIDER
Story of an American Bible Society benefactor

31
REACHING SIBERIA
Going to the ends of the earth



ON THE COVER: Mabel Dzorvakpor reads from a Bible given by the Bible Society of Ghana to the Wli School. (UBS Photo by Geoffrey Stamp)

DEPARTMENTS

5 **ASK JACQUIE**
Readers' Bible questions answered

5 **TRUSTEES**
Caring for body and spirit

16 **BIBLE-A-MONTH CLUB**
Uganda receives hope and help

18 **FOR THE RECORD**
Glimpses of Japan

20 **eQUIPPED ForMinistry**
ForMinistryKenya

24 **PLEASE PRAY**
Requests from around the globe

24 **IN MEMORIAM**
Our loved ones remembered

25 **BIBLE IN THE NEWS**
Scriptures in today's headlines

26 **UPDATE**
National news

28 **UPDATE**
International news

30 **QUIET TIME**
Daily Bible reading guide



We encourage you to send your letters to: Editor, American Bible Society Record, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: 212-408-8710. Note: For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the Record, please call 212-408-1200. www.americanbible.org

ON THE ROAD TO INDIANAPOLIS

WHEN JEAN BROSS-JUDGE, SENIOR program administrator of the American Bible Society's Literacy Program, visited the Shepherd Community, Inc. outreach center this March, she didn't know she would be instrumental in strengthening and broadening the Bible Society's partnership with that organization.

She knew of the wonderful youth-oriented work this inner-city Indianapolis, Ind., ministry was doing with limited resources. Located on the city's east side, Shepherd Community serves children from kindergarten through high school with various after-school programs including sports activities, homework help and one-on-one tutoring.

Shepherd Community is one of the organizations collaborating with the American Bible Society's campaign to touch young lives with the Scriptures. A high dropout rate among Indianapolis's high school students as well as the large number of urban youth makes it ideal for the planting of various Scripture-centered programs, including a Literacy Series. Developed in collaboration with Bank Street College of Education in New York City, the series uses Scripture-based materials to raise the literacy level of inner-city children and adults. Shepherd Community uses the program with its tutoring sessions and has enrolled more than 30 students.

The Bible Society and Shepherd Community have partnered to instill positive spiritual and educational values in these children at as early an age as possible. "It's our goal that children are reading before first grade so they don't fall behind early," commented Shepherd staff member, Marilyn Pitzulo. She knows far too well the long-term ramifications of below-grade reading



Kindergartener Karla Muniz, from Shepherd Community in Indianapolis, learns to read with the American Bible Society Literacy Series.

skills, and reports that the local high school enrolls nearly 900 freshmen each year, yet only 300 will graduate four years later.

As she toured the center, Ms. Bross-Judge witnessed a dedicated staff and students who demonstrated an eagerness to learn. By 3:30 p.m., the center was buzzing with energy. The kindergarteners had already left for the day when 21 elementary school students arrived for a meal, homework, prayer and recreation. Soon after, high school students piled out of a van that brings them from nearby high schools.

When she stepped into the center's "computer lab," Ms. Bross-Judge noticed there were only five outdated computers and no Internet capability. She thought of a third partner who could enhance Shep-

herd's effort.

Her father, Bill Bross, volunteers for "Full Circle," an office equipment-recycling organization in Cincinnati. As computer technology progresses, many companies want only the newest models, leaving their older, still serviceable computers available for use by non-profits. With a few phone calls, the daughter-father team located 20 computers, equipped with modems for Internet capability as well as printers, to donate to Shepherd Community.

"Literacy isn't limited to the printed word," Ms. Bross-Judge said. "Computer literacy opens students to resources that will enable them to navigate in our increasingly technological society." Ms. Pitzulo added, "We have been eager to offer a 'Tech Track for Teens,' and this surprising donation will allow us to achieve that goal. We also plan to use the computers in our after-school and summer programs." ■



Jacquelyn Sapiie
Library Services Supervisor
at Bible House

askjacquie

Readers are encouraged to submit their questions about the Bible to Jacquelyn Sapiie, Library Services Supervisor at Bible House in New York City. Questions can be forwarded to absrecord@americanbible.org, or Jacquelyn can be reached at 212-408-1203 or via regular mail at 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

Q How was it determined which books would be included in the Bible? When was the first Bible put together? S.K.

A Most biblical scholars agree that the Old Testament Scriptures were written in Hebrew over a period of time, from Genesis at about 1400 B.C., to the last book, Malachi, completed in 400 B.C.

The New Testament was written in the decades between Christ's resurrection and the end of the 1st century. The books in the New Testament are writings by Christ's apostles, Paul and close associates. These books were written in Greek, the international trade language of the ancient Mediterranean world.

The number of sacred books varies in different religious traditions. The Hebrew canon, the officially recognized sacred books of the Old Testament, consists of 24 books. Historically the Protestant churches regarded the Hebrew canon as their Old Testament. Some are divided so that the number of books totals 39. The New Testament contains 27 books.

The earliest Old Testament Bible was translated into Greek during the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C. for Jews living outside of Palestine. It became the Bible of the first generation of Christians to evangelize the Hellenistic world. By the end of the 2nd century A.D., the Christian church used the Old and New Testaments in Greek as a special group of sacred writings.

These were produced in a codex book, which consisted of handwritten parchment leaves folded and sewn together. The traditional division of the books into chapters was first used by Stephen Langton, a lecturer at the University of Paris, and later the Archbishop of Canterbury (d. 1228). The printer Robert Stephanus first employed the numbering of verses in a Greek New Testament issued by his firm in Geneva in 1551. Until the invention of the printing press in 1451, all copies of the Bible were written by hand. The ease of printing Bibles lead to greater ownership of Bibles. ■

TRUSTEES

Caring for Body and Spirit

Dr. Robert L. LeMaile-Williams believes strongly in the medicinal power of the Scriptures.

"In working with patients," says this leading California physician in internal medicine and hypertension, "the discipline of medicine requires high levels of spirituality." For Dr. LeMaile-Williams and his Christian medical colleagues, "Christ is the original physician and healer."

He recently experienced God's healing touch last year after being diagnosed with prostate cancer. Complications following surgery stretched what should have been a five-day hospital stay into 22. As a physician, he understood the gravity of the situation.

Now, with family, friends and colleagues, he obeyed Philippians 4.6: "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart."

Every morning, as he awakened in his hospital bed, Dr. LeMaile-Williams would look out the window; "I could see the dawn of day," he says, "and I would say my daily prayer."

He also found assurance in his *Contemporary English Version* Bible, drawing comfort from his daily readings. Now recovered, Dr. LeMaile-Williams shares with others the tremendous power he experienced through prayer. He says, "When this physician became the patient, prayers brought me comfort." Ever the physician, he also stresses the importance of regular health screenings for the early diagnosis of disease.

A Board member since 1996, Dr. LeMaile-Williams currently serves on the Program Committee, reporting to his Board colleagues about the effectiveness of the organization's domestic programs and scholarly work. He also serves on the Development and Revenue Resource Committee, recommending for Board approval financial resources policy and initiatives.

"It's eye opening to see up front how the Word is reaching people of all ages and in all communities, both in the United States and around the world," he says.

Dr. LeMaile-Williams and his wife, Machara, worship at St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church in L.A. and live in Rowland Heights, Calif. They have five children and five grandchildren. ■



Dr. LeMaile-Williams

ABI



GEOFFREY STAMP/UBS



RUNE HANSEN/UBS



RUNE HANSEN/UBS

Opportunity 21 confronts the challenge

for

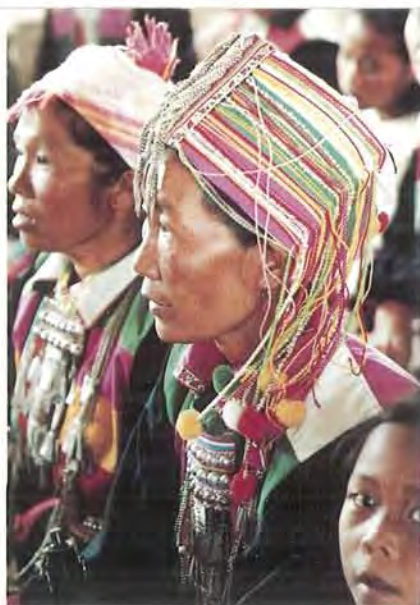


BIBLE

BY FRANCINE LANGE



GEOFFREY STAMP/UBS



RUNE HANSEN/UBS

As Bible-sharing ministries plan their yearly budgets, their leaders agonize over one of the most difficult decisions anyone with a heart for God must make: who will not receive a Bible this year. Thanks to Opportunity 21, launched nearly three years ago as one of the most ambitious worldwide Scripture distribution initiatives in history, many more people are receiving life from the living Book.

A girl with dark blond hair sits quietly at a table at the Sfanta Macrina Drop-in Center for Street Children in Bucharest, Romania, reading aloud from an open Bible. As she tells a visitor, "When I grow up, I would like to be a physician to help people," the 13-year-old girl is receiving some help herself from staff at the center. Alexandra and thousands of other Romanian children live on the streets or in abusive home situations, casualties of the collapse of the communist regime and worsening economic climate.

Opened by the Christian community in Bucharest in 1994, Sfanta Macrina provides a safe haven for these children, a hot meal and bath and solid teaching from Bibles supplied by the Interconfessional Bible Society in Romania. The Scripture she is avidly reading was provided through the *Opportunity 21*

Every Person

program jointly sponsored by the American Bible Society, the United Bible Societies (UBS) and the Maclellan Foundation.

Alexandra, the daughter of an alcoholic mother (her father died seven years ago), ran away from home a couple of years ago to escape the abuse. She survived by begging and by selling merchandise to motorists waiting at traffic lights. She has been coming to the center for two years, and reads easily from the Scriptures. "My favorite story is about creation," she says, "with Adam and Eve."

A PROGRAM WITH A VISION AND A CHALLENGE

Alexandra is only one of the millions of people being reached through *Opportunity 21*, and the provision of Scripture materials for street children is only one of the thousands of ways this extraordinary initiative is being carried out around the world.

Opportunity 21 was birthed in 1999 when the Maclellan Foundation, whose mission is to "serve strategic international and national organizations committed to furthering the Kingdom of Christ," challenged the American Bible Society to match its 15 million-dollar commitment to global Bible ministry. The Bible Society agreed to match the grant and joined UBS with a commitment of another \$15 million. The *Opportunity 21* program now comprises some 400 projects in more than 75 countries.

Foundation President Hugh O. Maclellan, Jr., has said: "Christians need to know that worldwide church growth is outstripping the supply of new Bibles — that the church will triple in size within the next 10 years — that the gap in Scripture availability will become even more serious." The Bible, he said, is "the key to the health and growth of the church."

To give an idea of the desperate need, in 1999 alone, UBS, a global fellowship of 137 national Bible societies that includes the American Bible Society, had to turn away requests for 67 million Bibles.

Through *Opportunity 21*, an international partnership of Bible Societies and other Christian ministries has been mobilized for translating, publishing and dis-



RUNE HANSEN/UBS

Alexandra receives care for body and spirit at a Romanian center for street children.

tributing the Holy Scriptures on an unprecedented scale. "The goal of *Opportunity 21* is to bring the power and promise of God's Word to an increasingly post-modern, post-literate, spiritually-searching and needy world," said Dr. Eugene Habecker, American Bible Society president. To that end the program represents broad diversity both in the way Scriptures are provided and how people will benefit from them. Bibles, New Testaments and other Scriptures are being supplied in printed, audio and video formats. Funding is also helping improve Bible Society infrastructure, such as the construction of warehouses and the purchasing of vans, to make Bible distribution more

effective and far-reaching, penetrating the most remote areas with God's Word.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Ministries that have come alongside the Bible Societies to meet the *Opportunity 21* challenge include Campus Crusade for Christ, which is bringing the *Jesus* film to millions worldwide in various languages, and Hosanna, which works throughout the world to bring God's Word to people in audio format through

In Kenya, the Abanyore women read from long-awaited Bibles in their Lunyore language.



SOSPETER GATOBU/BIBLE SOCIETY OF KENYA

A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

When a \$30,000 check from the Word of Faith Fellowship appeared in the American Bible Society mailbox last year, it seemed likely to come from a wealthy congregation. It turns out that most of the 250 members of the independent church in Dearborn, Mich., come from moderate or comfortable means — but none are rich.

The difference, says the Rev. Tony Buzzeo, is that “they believe in giving.” They also believe in the biblical principles of faith that “Pastor Tony,” as church members call him, has been teaching and modeling for the past 25 years. Pastor Tony, and his wife, Jeanne, have never been in debt. Their outlook on fiscal responsibility took on a spiritual impact after the couple turned to Christ, nearly 30 years ago. At that time, he says, he had a failing heart, his marriage



was in trouble and his lifelong stammering kept him from any public speaking. But after Mrs. Buzzeo received a Bible from a nun and was told it could be believed, first she, then Pastor Tony accepted its message.

“The Bible became everything to me,” he says. He took the Scriptures with him to work, reading and praying during lunch. “Just feeding on the Word of God,” changed him. “God healed my heart,” he says. God also healed his marriage, and the stuttering disappeared.

“Our mission now,” says Mrs. Buzzeo, “is to supply money to the needy people in the world and to share the gospel.” The church, which has already given several million dollars to meet needs around the world, selected the American Bible Society’s *Opportunity 21* program after reading about the changed life of young Alexandra in the *Record* (also featured at the beginning of this article). “It touched my heart immediately,” says Pastor Tony. “We just do what God tells us to do,” says Mrs. Buzzeo.

its *Faith Comes By Hearing* audiocassette listening program (a related story appears in the Spring 2003 issue of the *Record*).

PUTTING A FACE ON OUR MISSION: AN IMPACT STATEMENT

Since the launch of *Opportunity 21*, stories have flowed in from around the globe, testifying to the hope, joy and healing that men, women and children have experienced from the Scriptures provided. Here are a few of those accounts:

» MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East, where terrorism, violence and political unrest constantly plague residents, the Palestinian Bible Society, through *Opportunity 21*, has established a healing presence in Gaza. “As we stepped out,” says Labib Madanat, general secretary of the Bible Society there, “we found a community thirsty for living waters.”

Bible Society workers distribute Scrip-

tures in the name of Christ to hundreds of families in the Gaza region and supply public libraries and schools with Bibles and other Scripture materials. (The Bible Society also serves as a conduit through which other relief agencies funnel humanitarian aid to the needy.)

One project, called Operation Palestinian Child, brings smiles back to the faces of suffering Palestinian children as Bible Society teams, with the coopera-

tion of local village councils, take a Scripture-based variety program into schools. The operation aims to reach children of Christian families in the Gaza strip and Jenin, which are considered minorities in these regions. The program includes Bible-based puppet shows, plays, outdoor games, movies and storytelling, all aimed at helping children overcome the fear and oppression under which many are living. To date, more than 30,000 children have

In Colombia, a children’s home provides Bible teaching in kid-friendly formats, including Scripture comics.



LARRY FERDEN/UBS

been reached, reports Mr. Madanat.

Says Simon Azajian, information officer at the Bible Society: "It gives us great encouragement to know that when we go to schools, we are leaving a good Christian influence in the lives of all who watch."

Another project uses television throughout the Middle East to broadcast Scripture videos. For example, the Bible Society of Egypt works with *Opportunity 21* ministry partner, SAT-7, a Christian satellite television service, to produce Bible-based programs in Arabic. Production and broadcast of more than 160 different TV programs are underway.

» INDONESIA

A critical dimension of Bible ministry is making God's Word available to people in a language they can understand. This is especially challenging in countries where hundreds of dialects are spoken. To meet this need, translators work diligently to provide the Scriptures in the "heart language," the language of everyday life.

An *Opportunity 21* project in Indonesia, translating the New Testament into eight new languages, has already reached first stage drafts in three of the languages.

For some, hearing about the work isn't enough. Last year, longtime American Bible Society supporters Bob and Aileen Adams from Charlotte, N.C., traveled to Indonesia to get involved personally. After they heard people tell how their lives had changed and saw men and women who felt a joy and freedom that only comes from God, the Adams committed to pray for the Indonesian translators and the entire country. "We felt a real bond with them," says Mr. Adams. "God spoke to us and made it very clear that this is an important ministry," emphasizes Mr. Adams. "We thank God for the Bible Society there and what they're doing."

» AFRICA

When it gained independence in 1975, Mozambique was one of the world's poorest countries. After a 15-year civil war that worsened the situation, the government instituted fiscal reforms aimed at bringing economic and political stability



JUDITH KENDALL/UBS

In Mozambique, a woman living in a refugee camp accepts Scriptures in her language.

to the country. Still, a large portion of the population remains in desperate poverty, and recent flooding has set the country back just as its people had begun to recover from the effects of the war.

Millions of widows, many whose husbands were killed in the fighting, are facing their grief even while suffering the hardship of raising children alone. The Bible Society in Mozambique uses a booklet, *Suffering Women*, that contains Scriptures to help these women understand that God takes care of all those who trust him as their refuge. With help from *Opportunity 21*, the Bible Society has published 110,000 copies in Portuguese, Tsonga and Yitsha.

Gilda Litsure of the Women's Fellowship of the Christian Council has distributed 3,000 booklets in Portuguese and asked for more. "Giving women hope

— teaching them to rely on God's providence as they face suffering, poverty and injustice — is sometimes all they have," she says.

» LATIN AMERICA

"I came to faith under the wheels of a bus," says Esperanza López, whose right leg needed to be amputated following a near-fatal accident. "I asked God to save my life so I could do something for him," she says. "God told me that with two legs I could not do anything for Colombia, but with one leg I would be able to do plenty."

When she was well enough, Ms. López founded the Niños Triunfadores en Cristo home for street children in Bogotá, Colombia. Now the home cares for 62 children, infants to 13-year-olds from the poorest section of the city. With support from friends and services donated by

schoolteachers, she is able to keep the home running.

But, she emphasizes, "the purpose of the home is to bring the children to God." And with Bible materials from the Colombian Bible Society and *Opportunity 21*, she is able to do so. "Since the moment I brought [the children] the Bible Society Scriptures," she says, "they have become more interested in the Bible."

» INDIA

When a church in the heart of India received a New Testament audiocassette from the *Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH)* listening program, the pastor erected a loudspeaker outside so everyone in the small village could listen. A group of "Untouchables," a low-caste Hindu group shunned by everyone else, huddled near the church, amazed by the message of forgiveness they heard in their own language, Telugu. (Poverty had kept most illiterate.) A group of 20 returned day after day, and finally, months later, all 20 accepted God's forgiveness. Says Morgan Jackson, international director of *FCBH*, who visited with the group, "They were telling how they had been healed, how God had answered prayer, how they now had hope."

PROVIDING HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME

The impact of *Opportunity 21* can be felt by individuals all over the world. But the program has another purpose, says Terje Hartberg, UBS program coordinator for Europe and the Middle East and *Opportunity 21* global manager. "The other half of the story is how the program has enabled training, and the development of resources that will enhance the effectiveness of a whole new generation of Bible Society workers.



Some 35 percent of India's one billion people are children under 15 years old. The *Opportunity 21* program aims to provide children's Bibles in 10 indigenous languages.

"One of the unique things the program did for Bible Societies was to take the longer view and say 'We want to use this campaign, not just to get more Bibles out to more people, but also to enable you (the national Bible Societies) to continue building infrastructure and providing staff training and continue product development and the creation of new program ideas.'"

He continues, "We would like the stimulation that this program has provided to carry over into the next generation of leaders so that Bible Societies will be able to sustain the intensified level of ministry *Opportunity 21* has started." For the Bible Societies, the program "was a turning point that has enabled them to become better equipped to do the mission that God has called them to do."

Mr. Hartberg adds, "We have been able to try out Scripture programs that have proven to be more effective in reaching more people in more places and with more creativity than ever before."

Simply put, "you have the enabling of people today in order to improve the situation tomorrow."

The Bible Society of Turkey supplies Scriptures for the country's scattered Christian communities.

GIVING AND GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

Although many of the *Opportunity 21* projects will be completed by the end of 2004, much work still needs to be done. "People want to believe; they want a reason for hope. They want a future," says the Rev. William Jefferson, a former global coordinator who worked with *Opportunity 21* for nearly two years. "This is what the Word of God provides. The words of Scripture come calling, seeking its audience as sure as the waves come forth from the sea."

With continued prayer and support from dedicated Christians, the legacy and new beginnings made possible through *Opportunity 21* will be felt for generations to come.

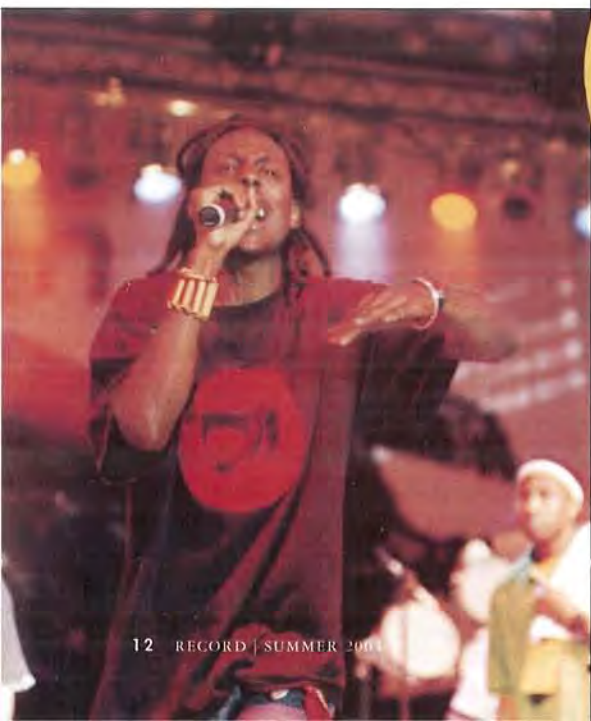
You may continue to give to this initiative through the end of 2003. In some cases, the American Bible Society will match donor funds dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact of your gifts. Mail a check to the American Bible Society, Attn: Melinda Trine, Office of Development, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

(This story was written with information drawn from United Bible Societies monthly World Reports and Opportunity 21 updates. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from UBS staff around the world.)



SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SON

Hi



Sons of God got the audience rocking with “Clap Your Hands,” proclaiming in rhythmic hip-hop rhyme that this concert was a time to be “praising the Lord, praise him until your whole body is sore! If you know him and love him you have to clap your hands!” Within minutes, Eric Espinal (Eric-E) and Baron Whitfield (B-Wise), nine-year veterans of streetwise Christian outreach, had hundreds of the 3,000 plus spectators jumping in cadence to the beat.

It was a perfect Miami evening in April, with a warm gentle breeze stirring in the amphitheatre at Bayfront Park. This was a second American Bible Society-sponsored concert at the park. The first one, held four years ago, included salsa king Richie Ray and other Latin performers. But the hip-hop performers and younger audience attending this year’s *Constant Hope* concert marked a transition for the Bible Society, traditionally a behind-the-scenes and reserved distributor of Scriptures.

As the setting sun dropped behind the

in Jesus’ name

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SINGER

bleachers, it was apparent that a new day was dawning. Amidst the commercial clutter and competition for the hearts of young people, getting a hearing for God's Word has become ever more challenging.

The American Bible Society has begun working with urban churches that have found ways to connect young people with the Scriptures. Under *Elementz of Life*, the Bible Society is developing a dynamic youth-centered outreach that aims to bring young people to faith, to encourage Christian maturity and to develop Christ-centered leaders. Hip-hop, which began as an expansion of rap music, has, for many teenagers, come to incorporate key elements for a whole life-style, from dress to music to language — everything that's "in." Urban churches and the Bible Society are working on effective ways to use hip-hop music and lyrics, which have often been used as a challenge to moral norms, as constructive and compelling expressions of Christian faith and values.

As a beginning, last November, Crossover Community Church in Tampa, with the Bible Society as a sponsor, hosted a four-day Fla.vor Fest, drawing Christian hip-hop artists and enthusiasts as well as youth ministers from around the country and Canada to workshops on how to use hip-hop music, drama, poetry and dance in outreach to impoverished urban areas. The Bible Society provided easy-to-read *Contemporary English Version T.R.U.C.E.* (To Reach Urban Children



High-energy Christian hip-hop artists deliver God-centered faith and values to urban youth.

Everywhere) Bibles to attendees and used the opportunity to explore possibilities for cooperation and innovation for future urban outreach (see the Winter 2003 issue of the *Record*, page 27).

The *Constant Hope* concert was a next step, with a lineup of young, urban performers headlined by three-time Dove Award nominees, Souljahz, the Tunnel Rats, Contagious and Freddie Colloca. Proverb, host of radio station Way-FM Jam Session, served as MC while DJ Morphiziz of 1-Way kept the audience involved during set-ups with his skills on the turntables.

Contagious rapped out, "I am empty without You Jesus, And only You can fill

up my soul, In the river of Your righteousness, I want to bathe myself whole."

Freddie Colloca said, "I want to bring audiences to their feet in celebration and to their knees in worship."

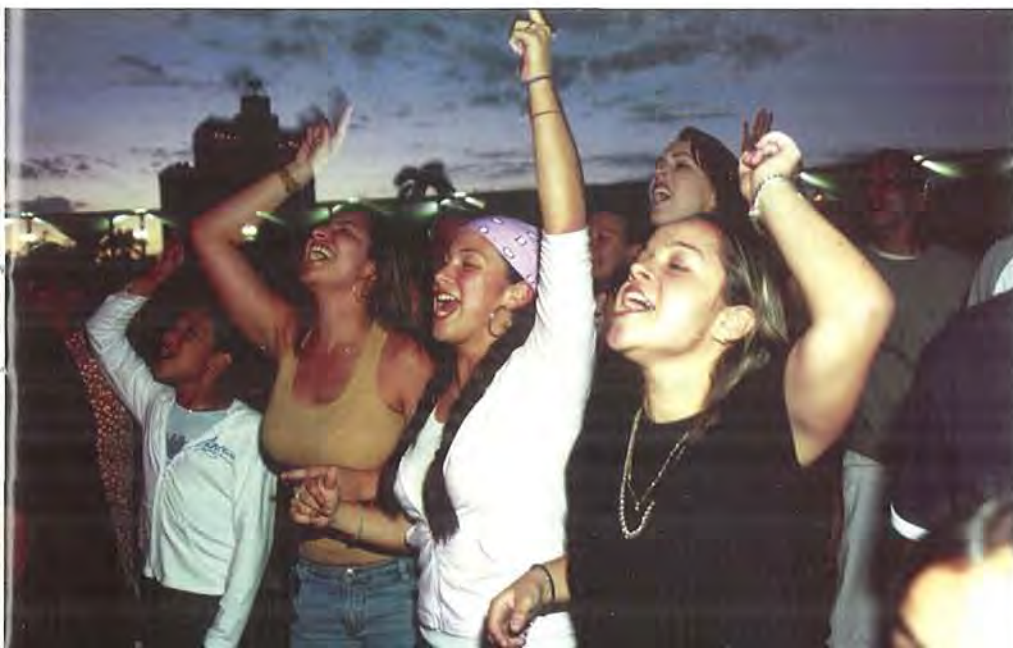
As people left the concert they received the Book of Proverbs Scriptures in the *CEV*, provided by the Bible Society.

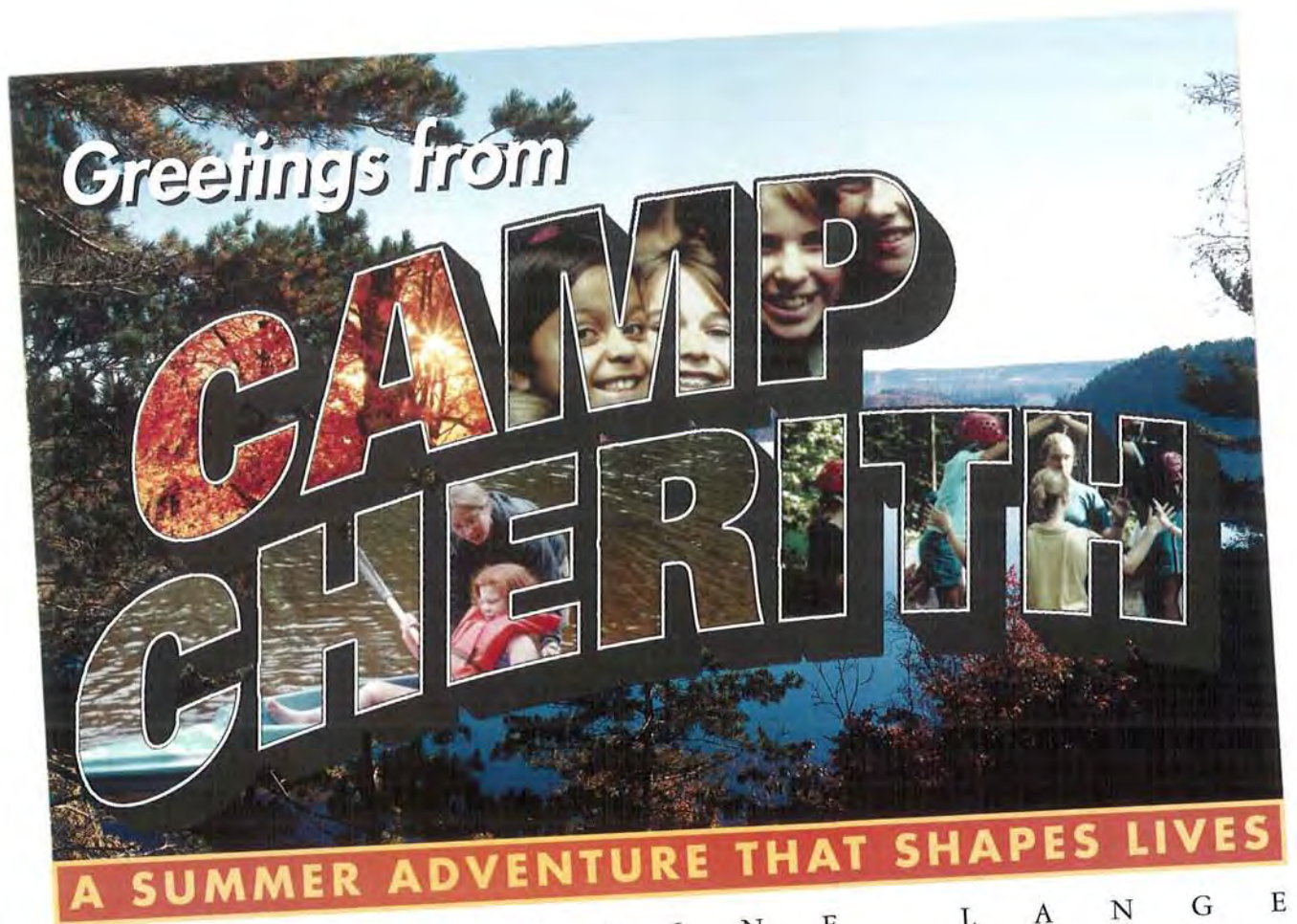
In a letter to Emilio Reyes, VP, ABS International, Liz Rodriguez, who attended the event as a chaperone with young people from her church, wrote, "What a blessing to see young people having a good time! Not only were they able to enjoy the music they like, but they saw young people dressed like they like to dress and yet use their talents for God.

"We took youths that had never attended a concert for lack of financial resources. A young lady (unbeliever) that accompanied us said she was surprised because she had never before heard Christian R&B, much less Christian rap.

"I imagine that this was a costly event and I want to thank you . . . for your investment in reaching the youth. . . . rest assured that it was an experience they will remember forever.

"Again I congratulate you and your team." ■





As a cobalt sky slowly lightens to a soft pinkish blue, a sharp bugle's wake-up call pierces the morning air in New York's Adirondack mountains. A new day begins for 150 girls tumbling out of bunk beds to face another action-packed adventure at Camp Cherith.

This Christian summer camp for girls ages 7 to 17, in upstate New York, is having a major influence in many lives, providing a wholesome outdoor experience closely intertwined with Bible study, morning and evening devotions and camp songs that include the silly as well as the spiritual. The camp hosted more than 800 girls last year and expects to exceed that amount this year.

For Joanne Grimm, now a 20-year-old sophomore at Houghton College in New York, it has helped set the course of her life. Her studies — in adolescent education, Spanish literature and equestrian studies — reflect some of the interests she developed and the skills and strengths camp counselors and mentors nurtured at Camp Cherith over the years.

Although Joanne Grimm grew up in a Christian home, her parents divorced when she was 10, and she dealt with that and some of her own tough issues, especially in ninth grade. Returning to the stable camp environment year after year helped her survive and thrive.

Joanne illustrates how Bible-based activities and bonds of friendship forged at camp provide individual cords (each cord representing one friend) that weave together to form a “net” of friendship. “Then,” she says, “when something happens, you fall in the net and the net holds you up.”

A SAFETY NET AND SKILL BUILDER

Joanne Grimm’s mother, Katherine Teets Grimm, a Manhattan-based pediatrician, agrees. She also works for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Manhattan, which affords her an especially close view of the turmoil children endure — she investigates children suspected of being abused.

Every year Dr. Grimm sponsors some of these children from the center, to attend the camp. She says, “I’ve been a strong believer in Christian camps even before I came to the center, because not only are the children’s physical needs addressed, but also their spiritual needs.”

Wide support for the Adirondack camp and 20 or so other Camp Cheriths located across the country also comes from Pioneer Clubs, a church-connected ministry that sponsors weekly clubs. Often, children sponsored by the Children’s Advocacy Center have never attended a church or a Pioneer Club — they’ve never heard the gospel — so camp exposure can be life changing. Sighting a live cow or horse for the first time or viewing a star-studded night sky uncluttered by the city’s light pollution can be an amazing experience for an inner-city child.

While the school setting provides a safety net for children, “once the school year is over,” Dr. Grimm explains, “particularly for these kids who do not go to summer school, the camp can become another safety net.”

Every camp activity is geared to strengthen abilities and teach proper techniques, according to Dianne Liddy, the camp administrator. “We think it’s more important for kids to learn and to develop skills as opposed to developing competitive attitudes.” So, for example, the girls who choose archery will eventually shoot perfect targets, “because they’ve learned the system, they’ve learned all the safety aspects.”

For girls fortunate enough to return to the camp year after year, the experience can provide a supportive foundation during the ups and downs of their lives. But even for girls who may attend just once, says Joanne Grimm, the weeklong or month-long exposure to the gospel can be an important beginning. “It won’t change what they go back home to, but it could change their entire outlook, their entire perspective,” she says.

THE BIBLE FROM DAWN TO DUSK

Scripture forms the core of the camper’s experience. Every day begins with a “Morning Watch.” Each girl, on her own, reads from an age-appropriate devotional booklet that guides her through the Scriptures and prayer. The camp gives Bibles to the girls who don’t own one,



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ADIRONDACK CAMP CHERITH

Christ-centered values at Camp Cherith help the girls grow emotionally, spiritually and socially.

continued on page 19 >>



Uganda Turns to the Bible Society for Hope and Help

The Bible Society of Uganda (BSU) works closely with an array of churches and relief agencies to increase Bible knowledge and thereby decrease high levels of crime, corruption, ignorance and disease in Uganda. Many groups and even government agencies believe that the key to a brighter future for this East African country links directly to citizens having a life-transforming connection with God's Word.

As in many other African countries, the nearly 23 million people of this nation suffer from the devastation of AIDS/HIV. At one time Uganda was seen as the "epicenter of the epidemic," said Henry Kalule, BSU general secretary. But since the early 1990s, the BSU has been active in ministering to people infected with AIDS, distributing tens of thousands of the Scripture booklet *Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God*. The Uganda AIDS Commission has been among the organizations requesting the booklet, and the Rev. Canon Hob Mkbukure, a delegate to the AIDS Conference in 2002, asked the Bible Society of Uganda to produce another special booklet for prison ministry.

Educating the children of Uganda also provides hope for the future, and once again, the Word of God guides the way. The Bible Society's popular New Reader Program, begun in 1974 and based on Bible stories, helps raise reading levels among Uganda's children. The New Reader booklets are also used in adult literacy campaigns.

Your July gift will bring Bibles to underserved areas in the United States. Your August offering will provide Scriptures to Russia. Your September gift will support Bible work in China. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below, or write:

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Bible-a-Month Club
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New York, NY
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americanbible.org

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

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FOR THE RECORD

50 YEARS AGO

Glimpses of Japan

When T. Miyakoda, secretary of the Japan Bible Society, traveled throughout Japan to meet with Bible distributors, church representatives and missionaries, he drew inspiration from the Scripture-sharing stories people told him.

At a conference in the city of Yahata, the Rev. O. Murakami told how he took advantage of a nationwide coal strike to spread God's Word. Mr. Murakami enlisted some of the unemployed miners — members of his church — to distribute 10,000 copies of the Scriptures to other miners and their families while the mines were closed.

During the conference, a pastor told how one of his Sunday school students, while playing ball with friends, broke the window of a nearby house. When the owner rushed out to confront them, all the boys ran away — except for the Sunday school student.

The student confessed to the homeowner that he had broken the window. Touched by the boy's honesty, the man asked him why he had not escaped like the others. The boy replied that he had read the story of Jonah at Sunday school, and learned the lesson that "nothing can be hid from God." So why should he run away from a man?



Villagers gather around a man offering Scriptures and listen to God's story. From the 1953 Record.

In a report from post-war Japan, the American Bible Society's senior general secretary Eric M. North, who visited there in 1950, recounted a conversation he had with General Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo, who asked, "How is the distribution of the Scriptures going in Japan?" Dr. North reported that "from the end of {World War II} the American Bible Society and the Japan Bible Society had distributed approximately 4

million Scriptures in the four years since the war," with plans to distribute another 8 million in the next two years.

Gen. MacArthur commended the plan and urged the American Bible Society to press for a distribution goal of 30 million Scriptures in Japan. ■

Sacred Surroundings

The Gallery at the American Bible Society continues to make headlines with first-rate exhibitions of Scripture-inspired art. The latest, *Holy Russia in Tuscany: 19th Century Icons from the Collection of Francesco Bigazzi*, conveys how, even during the 19th century, a period of increased secularization, religious icons anchored the worship and daily life of the Russian Orthodox faithful.

"Inundated with images, modern-day Americans tend to bring the aesthetic expectations of Western art to sacred art," says its director, Ena Heller. "But as relic-like objects directly linked to the holy figures they depict, Russian icons are a unique continuation of a once pervasive spiritual tradition. Using a range of visuals, including period photographs, *The Gallery* provides a social and religious context so that the visitor can see how these icons would have functioned inside homes, on the street, in shrines and in churches in the 19th century."



Mother of God of Bogolyubov, later 19th century.

All of the 56 icons on view in the exhibition come from the collection of the Museum of Russian Icons, established in 2000 in the central square of Peccioli, Italy. Mr. Bigazzi, a journalist, built the collection over the course of 20 years of travel and work in the former Soviet Union. The exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Foundation of America and the town of Peccioli.

Photographs drawn from the collections of the New York Public Library show how these icons were displayed ubiquitously in homes and elsewhere in 19th- and in early 20th-century Russia.

The Gallery is located at 1865 Broadway, at 61st Street, in New York City. The Gallery and all its programs are free. For more information, call (212)408-1500, e-mail gALLERY@americanbible.org, or visit us on the Internet at www.american-bible.org.

and this year the American Bible Society, through a special arrangement with the Bible Society of Western New York, donated half of 6 dozen youth Bibles, in the easy-to-read *Contemporary English Version*, for the camp program.

Camp director Nancy Halliday emphasizes that beginning each day alone with God is very effective. "Camp is one of the places where kids learn to have their own personal devotions," she says. The girls also meet in small groups with their counselor and cabin mates later in the day in Bible Exploration, discussing the readings from the morning watch. There, says Ms. Halliday, "They can see how God has spoken to them through his Word."

Even recreational activities are meant to teach biblical principles. Ms. Liddy recalls one camper, a 6th grader who'd decided to tackle the ropes course, in which the camper, strapped securely into a harness, leaps from a 40-ft. platform and whizzes to the ground on a rope pulley. "It's quite a ride," says Ms. Liddy, and even though the activity is safe it requires a lot of courage. The camper began climbing up the ladder to the platform, but froze when she saw the height. "She really wanted to do it but she was really afraid," says Ms. Liddy. The instructor gently encouraged her to sing a Scripture song from Philippians 4.13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." With quivering lips the girl began singing, and finally lifted herself up and out and zipped safely to the ground.

Each evening the girls gather together around a crackling campfire, where their singing of Scripture songs fills the air. They perform skits, munch on snacks and finally return to their cabins for an evening devotional before drifting off to sleep.

LIFE AFTER CAMP – FOLLOWING UP

The camp program aims to have the Scriptures become an important part in what happens to the campers when they return home.

"We hope the girls learn the way in which God's Word can be practical in their everyday lives," says Ms. Halliday. To help sustain them after camp, Camp Cherith offers a correspondence Bible study course and also maintains a Web site, www.cherith.com, which contains devotionals, a discussion board and information about the programs.

Ministers and parents all across the nation are asking the question, "How can we reach today's youth?" A Christian summer camp that is weaving the Word of God into the fabric of camp life is surely one significant solution. ■



Joanne Grimm



Dr. Katherine Grimm

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCINE LANGE



Luckia Yard describes the experiments she completed at Camp Cherith's science session last summer. The science included birds and light, "and we did weather" she recalls. Reading a thermometer and looking at the clouds to predict weather helped the 11-year-old aspiring scientist view the outdoors in a new light.

Luckia is one of the two youngsters from the Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan sponsored by Dr. Grimm last year. Swimming in a lake, singing Scripture songs and making new friends helped her embrace the overall camping experience. It also included taking her first step of faith during a devotional session. "I just really felt like I wanted to be a Christian," she says softly.

CHRISTIAN CAMP MINISTRY – IMPACT BEYOND SUMMER

Bob Kobielush remembers the exact spot where he made a decision that changed his life forever. As a young summer staffer at Camp Forest Springs in Wisconsin, "I knelt on the beach and told God that I wanted to give my life to full-time Christian ministry."

Now, 40 years later, Mr. Kobielush serves as president of Christian Camping International/USA, an association that offers products, programs and services

to some 1,070 Christian camps and conference centers across the nation. Every year, more than 8 million people attend member camps and conferences.

Summer camp provides a safe place for people to "consider who they are and who God is in a more intimate way than most other places," he says. "Here decisions are made that shape lives for time and eternity."

ForMinistryKenya Launches A Service and A Hope

“It is my hope and prayer that through *ForMinistryKenya*, the churches in Kenya will be empowered to meet the challenges of sharing the Word of God with the world digitally. As the first such undertaking in Africa, please accept my heartfelt congratulations to the Bible Society of Kenya and people of Kenya for their pioneering spirit and partnership with the American Bible Society.”

— Eugene B. Habecker, President, American Bible Society

After 18 months of planning and preparation, the Bible Society of Kenya (BSK) publicly launched *ForMinistryKenya*, a joint initiative with the American Bible Society to equip churches in the country and throughout Africa for ministry online. Some 150 church leaders, pastors and heads of Christian organizations gathered at the new Bible House in Nairobi in February, eager to learn more.

Peter Mkolesia, the United Bible Societies associate general secretary for the Anglophone Africa region, said: “It is a privilege for us to recognize that the sounds of drums that represented communication in Africa have moved to the world of cyberspace. This is an area that has hitherto not belonged to this continent.”

“What would [the apostle] Paul have done had he the technology of today,” asked the Rev. Jesse Kamau, moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. “He would have used it to reach more people for Christ.” Rev. Kamau’s statement reflected the willingness of Kenya church leaders to take up these tools to infuse hope and faith in the African people.

Kenya has nearly 31 million residents, yet only 500,000 have Internet access. Of those who do,



Bishop Kamau, center (in blue shirt), invokes God’s blessing over *ForMinistryKenya*, joined by (from left) Bishop William Waqo, provincial secretary of the Anglican Church of Kenya; Bishop William Tuimising, BSK trustee; Chris Thyberg, executive director, *ForMinistry.com*; Mr. Kandiye; and Andrew Rugege, director, *ForMinistry International*.

a majority come from the larger city churches, which see *ForMinistry* as an effective means of connecting with their parishioners.

Nairobi Pentecostal Church and Nairobi Baptist Church, two of the larger and better resourced churches in Nairobi, are posting sermons, prayer requests and Bible reading programs online for their congregations. Both have branch churches that can be networked to share

information, encouragement and counsel.

ForMinistry can also help the people in this developing country gain a stronger footing in the global marketplace. Reading a statement from Samuel Chepkong’o, the former director general of the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), Juma Kandiye, a CCK director, said, “If local church organizations effectively conduct their operations online, the Internet will be demystified and result in the integration of a larger proportion of Kenya’s population in the unfolding global information society.”

You can make a difference! Your tax-deductible support of ForMinistry’s international programs during this time helps the American Bible Society connect God’s Word with the world. Your gift of only \$25 helps us get a church online in Kenya, Hong Kong and in other countries across the globe. You may make a secure donation online at www.forministry.com/about/donate.dsp or write a check, payable to the American Bible Society, and send it to 14900 Conference Center Drive #525, Chantilly, VA 20151.

— ANDREW RUGEGE AND CHRIS THYBERG

Cthyberg@ForMinistry.com

*An Internet ministry of the American Bible Society
“Equipping the Church online For Ministry”®*

BY CHRIS THYBERG

Homeless

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH
BY DAVID SINGER



*Street Smart Enough
to Know What Counts*

IN MIAMI

Manuel Vera and Andres Vera were shown God's love when they most needed it, living a homeless existence that robbed them of everything — but most of all, robbed them of their self respect.

Manuel had moved from Uruguay where, for 17 years, he worked in a casino. In Miami he earned his way delivering newspapers for eight years. Then, in an attempt to fill a nagging emptiness, he returned to gambling. As his compulsion, his life and health spiraled downhill, he lost his work, home and his dignity. He developed diabetes. After 10 days on the street, a policeman found Manuel lying unconscious, suffering from acute anemia.

After four transfusions and six days of nursing care, Manuel was well enough to leave. But he had nowhere to go. A doctor called a taxi, paid the fare and sent him to Miami Rescue Mission where, Manuel testifies, “they gave me clothes, a bed — they give to the poor what the poor need — they treated me like a human being.”

Andres Vera has a similar story. Immigrating to Miami from Honduras at age 17, he found work on the cruise ships that make Miami a port-of-call. The lifestyle he saw on board contrasted sharply with the poverty of his upbringing. He began to dabble in the drugs and alcohol so prevalent aboard ship. Soon drugs took control and Andres, too, lost his job.

After years of sleeping in abandoned buildings and eating from garbage cans, Andres says, “I got sick and tired of being sick and tired. Like anyone

living on the streets in Miami, I knew about the Miami Rescue Mission — I had ‘used it’ for food and shelter.” But Andres also knew about its Bible-centered program — he knew he could find more than food at the mission. He finally went in for treatment. “I wanted to get God in my life,” he says.

The program at the mission and the changes he had to undertake “were not a piece of cake,” says Andres. “I had to turn my whole life over to God.”

Both men, recent graduates of the rigorous Regeneration program, give thanks to the American Bible Society's Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) for providing both the Spanish and English Bibles they read and use to help others. Both men still live at the mission, and Andres, now 39 years old, orients newcomers to the mission program. Manuel applies his talent for translation by helping process incoming Spanish-speaking residents and translating much of the Christian education materials used at the mission.

“Daily Bible reading has strengthened me considerably,” says Andres. “I will continue sharing and reading the gospel.”

Manuel says that, as a 68 year-old-man, he actually feels much younger since experiencing his spiritual rebirth. While neither possesses much in material goods, they feel a family connection with their heavenly Father worth more than gold. ■

A PROVIDER WHO KNOWS THE GREAT PROVIDER

VIRGINIA WILLIAMS HAS ENCOUNTERED the God of the Bible many times in her life and has come to one conclusion: "He's everything I need," she says. That statement of faith is the well from which she draws as she reaches out to meet others' needs.

The 57-year-old Mississippian had long been involved in the caring field, working in a hospital for 10 years. She felt God's care in a special way when, in 1992, she left her job to minister with Hospital Christian Fellowship in Springfield, Mo. This organization teaches health care professionals how to meet the spiritual needs of patients and fellow workers through evangelism, prayer and discipleship.

Even without an income, she was still able to meet all her expenses through the generosity of friends, her home church and one in Springfield. The Scripture, "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4.19) became a day-by-day reality for her. After that year, she marvels that, "I had more money in the bank than when I left."

She returned to her hometown in Quitman to establish a branch of the ministry there. Three years later she married the retired pastor of her Southern Baptist church. Sadly, the Rev. T.E. Williams died a few years later.

Rather than retreat in her grief, Mrs. Williams continued to respond to needs of others around her. And last year, she answered a call for volunteers to serve on short-term mission trips by opening her heart once again: "I prayed to the Lord to show me where he would have me go," she says. In October

BY FRANCINE LANGE



Virginia Williams (in white coat), with the help of an interpreter, readies a villager in Ukraine for an eyeglass fitting.

she headed with a team of nurses and doctors to Nikoliev in Ukraine. Working through interpreters, they set up temporary health clinics in nearby villages, treating nearly 700 needy patients in one week.

As a non-medical volunteer, Mrs. Williams was assigned to fit people with eyeglasses, eventually helping 300 grateful residents.

"It was such a blessing to see the smiles on the faces as they would exclaim, 'I can see,'" she says, and "then they would read [the eye test] John 3.16 in Russian from the gospel tract they were given."

Mrs. Williams continues to meet spiritual needs by giving through the American Bible Society, using her husband's example as her guide. "He gave generously to the Lord's work," she says, "and encouraged me to do so when he would no longer be here."

She contributes to the Bible-a-Month Club and has also established a Bible Society Gift Annuity. "The Lord has blessed me financially," she explains, "and I in turn want to use what he has blessed me with to help others know him."

With a lifelong history of witnessing God's provision in her own life and in others, it is fitting that her favorite Scripture is "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." (Psalm 23.1) Mrs. Williams continues to meet needs, some as close as her hometown and some as far away as the farthest country the Bible Society reaches. ■

More information about planned giving programs sponsored by the American Bible Society can be obtained by calling the Planned Gift Programs Department at 1-800-820-6227.



STANDING ON A SOLID ROCK

The American Bible Society's steadfast adherence to its Scripture-sharing mission provides the basis for everything we do. Undergirding our ability to deliver the assurance of God's Word in times of war, peace, natural disasters or man-made tragedy, is the financial legacy created by our supporters.

The thoughtful plans and commitments of those participating in our planned gift programs have ensured both our stability to make long-term ministry commitments for work such as Bible translation and our ability to react quickly and effectively in times of special need.

Gift planning programs of the American Bible Society are designed for people in all circumstances of life. We urge you to learn more about plans that will work for you and also ensure that, in the future, the Word of God will remain available for all.

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PLEASE PRAY

GUINEA-BISSAU — Please pray for the Bible work that is just beginning in this West African country, where political and economic problems persist. Pray for the safe arrival of the Kiryol New Testament on audiocassette and for its widespread use by non-literate groups.

ICELAND — Pray for the funds needed to complete the new translation of the Icelandic Bible. Pray for increased Bible reading in the country and for Bible Society efforts to remind people of Iceland's rich Christian heritage.

BELARUS — Thank God for the successful distribution of Bibles to the regional branches of the Belarusian Association of the

Visually Handicapped and to libraries in the Chernobyl region. Please pray that Scripture resources distributed in children's homes and boarding schools in Minsk will serve as a channel of God's comfort and strength to the children living there.

ROMANIA — Please pray for the ongoing *Opportunity 21* distribution of Bibles to kindergartens, orphanages, old people's homes and prisons. Pray for those working on the inter-confessional New Testament translation, that their work, when completed, will help foster spiritual unity among the Romanian people.

GEORGIA — Praise God for the launch of a new Georgian Bible. Pray that this modern-language

edition will speak to the hearts and minds of people affected by economic hardship and political uncertainty. Pray that the United Bible Societies will find the resources to provide more Scriptures to reach the poor, the destitute and the marginalized with assurances of God's love.

JORDAN — Thank God for the great opportunities that he is creating in Jordan for sharing his Word. The Bible Society in Jordan has distributed 50,000 Bibles during the past 18 months and has the opportunity to distribute another 50,000 in the near future. Pray for peace and freedom in the region, and for the safety of Bible Society staff as they minister to people's hunger for the Scriptures.

IN MEMORIAM

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

My Parents,
The Rev. & Mrs.
Kenneth E. Arnold
My Husband,
Roy F. Conklin
Given by: Alwynne A. Conklin

Harold Brown
Given by: Rhea G. Brown

Norma E. Carter
*Given by:
The Estate of Norma E. Carter*

Patricia Duley
*Given by: The Jack Wheaton
Bible Class*

Margaret Fitzgerald
Given by: June Y. Fitzgerald

Mildred Fryhofer
Given by: Ann Krebs

Valerie Gray
*Given by: The Jack Wheaton
Bible Class*

Mrs. Judy Hilton
*Given by:
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Kalina*

My Daughter,
In Remembrance of
The Rev. Janet Landwehr
Given by: Jane Mangold

My Mother,
Mrs. Virginia Moe
Given by: Roe Moe

Jane Ellen Palmer Smith
Given by: Mary K. Palmer

Mrs. Clare Platter
Given by: Ann & Ben Platter

Mrs. Doris Smith
Mrs. Libby Fields
*Given by:
Dr. Harold C. Bennett*

In Memory of my beloved
sister and brother-in-law,
Marie and Henry Teubner
*Given by: The Estate of
Edith E. Pangrace*

In Memory of my beloved
parents, Charles C. and
Louise N. Ward
*Given by: The Estate of
their daughter,
Adelaide Brevoort Ward*

In Memory of
my beloved husband,
Ned R. Wonsetler
*Given by: The Estate of
his wife, Erna Wonsetler*

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.

BIBLE IN THE NEWS

Scripture Sits on Player's Shoe

■ Gwen Jackson, the 6-foot-2 NCAA Lady Volunteer basketball player wears her faith on her shoe. That is, she has written on the toe of one shoe the Bible verse "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper," from Isaiah 54.17. The *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* reports that the Alabama native "has been drawing the Scripture on her shoe and drawing inspiration from it before every game after enduring a midseason slump that belied her All-American talents."

Prayers and Bibles 'To Go'

■ A church in Orange County, Calif., is using a different approach to attract people who are too busy to attend church or avail themselves of its assistance — by converting a small booth into a "drive-through" prayer center. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, part of the Main Place Christian Fellowship Church mission is "to bring Jesus Christ to our neighbors in a creative and caring way to all people for free."

The 6-by-14-foot prayer center, which is located in a strip mall just across from the church, was once used as a photo booth and flower shop. A sign on the booth advertises "Free Prayers" and another one promises "Flowers, Bibles, Bottled Water," also free. The Bibles are available in English and Spanish.

Pastors and volunteers staff the booth weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and, "drivers — in a hurry or just shy — can pull up to a drive-through window without leaving their car. Those with more time or troubles are invited to sit with a pastor on chairs outside the shack." Visitors may also write their requests in a notebook; church volunteers pray over them daily.

People who need more, reported *Times* staff writer William Lobdell, are sent to the church, just across the street, where they get referrals for food, housing, clothes and substance-abuse counseling.

Troops Receive Scripture Eggs

■ A second-grade class at a Christian school in St. Charles, Mo., struck up a correspondence with their teacher's son, a Marine on active duty in Iraq. According to the report aired on National Public Radio's Weekend Edition, Dan Frances had asked his mother if the children would write letters to his platoon. They did and the Marines wrote back.

Said NPR correspondent Linda Wertheimer, "The children wanted to write again, so Mrs. Roberts suggested they send Easter eggs. They decorated eggs cut out of colored paper with markers, and on the back they wrote Bible verses."

During her visit to the school, Ms. Wertheimer recorded selections from some of the children. A student named Nathan chose verses from 1 Thessalonians, which included, "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Another picked "Love your enemies. Do good to those that hate you," from the Gospel of Luke. When her teacher asked why she'd selected that one, she replied, "Cause everybody should love their enemies and be good to everybody else."

Inspiring the Visual Through the Word

■ In New York City's East Village, *the* center for the cool and the hip, a group of young artists and musicians gather weekly to interact with the Scriptures — they create illustrations to be included in an enormous book that will contain illustrations for every verse in the *King James Version*.

According to *The New York Times*, the project is the brainchild of Patrick and Kate Hambrecht, who moved to New York from Nebraska to settle in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, (another "center for the hip") six years ago.

"The idea in a nutshell is to get as large a collection of visual commentary on the Bible as possible, to allow people to interact with the Bible in a creative, personal way," the *Times* reports the 29-year-old Mr. Hambrecht as saying. ■

update

NATIONAL

▼ Corporal Cynthia D. Chamble of the New York Guard 88th Bde. 1/15th presents a military Bible to Lt. Col. Irvine Bryer, a fellow National Guard member being deployed to the Middle East.



■ NEW YORK

The American Bible Society has created a *Good News Translation* Bible for the military, including special auxiliary material developed jointly with chaplains representing all branches of the armed services.

"This follows a long tradition," said Dr. Eugene Habecker, Bible Society president, who noted that the organization has been a provider of Scriptures to U.S. troops for all conflicts since the Mexican War. "We are happy at this time

to provide this spiritual support to our servicemen and women — most of whom are young adults — serving in these dangerous times."

The special military Bible addresses the specific concerns of military personnel and their families. For example, it points to passages that relate to distress during times of separation such as being away from home when a child is born or when a parent dies. This new Bible also includes

copies of the military code of conduct and counsel on effective military leadership.

"Never before have the top military chaplains from each branch of the armed service come together to create a Bible to serve U.S. military personnel worldwide," noted Dr. Habecker. "This is an historic event, and the American Bible Society is grateful for the opportunity to provide a message of hope in these troubled times."

Chaplain representatives involved in the project represent both Catholic and Protestant religious leadership in the armed forces. They

include Rear Admiral Barry Black, chief of chaplains for the U.S. Navy; Bishop John J. Kaising, auxiliary for the Catholic Military Archdiocese; Major General Gaylord Gunhus; Major General Lorraine Porter; Colonel Jack Anderson; Colonel Skip Courter, and Lieutenant Colonel Gary Sexton.

Although the Bible Society has developed these Scriptures for use by military chaplains, they are also available to the general public for \$9.99 per copy at www.americanbible.org.

■ NEW YORK

The Religion Communicators Council (RCC) has just awarded the American Bible Society the DeRose-Hinkhouse Memorial Merit Awards. Named to honor the late Victor DeRose and Paul M. Hinkhouse, leading lithographers in New York City, these are presented annually to RCC members who demonstrate excellence in religion communications and public relations.

The four winning categories were: periodicals and writing, both for the *Record* magazine (which also received an Award of Excellence from the Evangelical Press Association); non-broadcast audio and video, for the *Psalms 23* CD, which the Bible Society produced and dedicated to children who had lost loved ones in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks two years ago; and graphic design, art and photography, for the *Reflections on Glass: 20th Century Stained Glass* catalog produced for the exhibit at *The Gallery at the American Bible Society*.

The catalog received another honor — from the Association of Graphic Communications (AGC) — as showcase winner in this year's AGC competition. This prestigious award is given to only a few printed pieces from thousands of entries. Entries were judged on the basis of production quality, type, color, binding and other relevant elements. ■

HERE ARE 140 PLACES YOUR GIFTS WILL HELP TO PROVIDE SCRIPTURES.

AFRICA

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Burundi
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Central African Rep.
Chad
Congo
Cote d'Ivoire
Dem. Rep. of Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi

Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Reunion
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Transkei
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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Cuba
Guadeloupe
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Honduras
Jamaica
Martinique
Mexico
Netherlands Antilles
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Puerto Rico
Suriname
Trinidad & Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

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Brunei
Cambodia

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Fiji
French Polynesia
India
Laos
Micronesia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
New Caledonia
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

EUROPE MIDDLE EAST

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Armenia
Austria

Azerbaijan
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Belgium
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Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czechia
Egypt
Estonia
Georgia
Greece
Hungary
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia, FYR
Malta

Moldova
Morocco
Oman
Palestinian Authority
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Serbia & Montenegro
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Syria
Tajikistan
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan



Bible Society work is ongoing in most countries. This world map highlights places where your donations can help provide Scriptures. God's message of faith, hope and love transforms lives worldwide. Consider Africa. The church is growing exponentially there as people come to faith. We remember Nassandin, the young man of another faith whose life was transformed after he listened to audio Scriptures in his village. The Bible reminds us: first the Word (John 1.1), then a transformed life, then a church. **Your support for the American Bible Society helps to make a global difference.** ✨

Yes! I want to help transform lives around the world with God's message of faith, hope and love.

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update

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

■ C A M B O D I A

The Khmer people are still recovering from a brutal, three-decade civil conflict in which they faced starvation and persecution, especially under the rule of Pol Pot's violent Khmer Rouge regime of the 1970s. Cambodia's Christians, who comprise

less than a half a percent of the 11 million residents, have been able to openly practice their faith only since 1990, so the country's churches, and their congregations, are relatively young.

The Bible Society in Cambodia, which itself only took up its work again in 1993,

is focusing its efforts on young people, who account for the majority of the country's small but rapidly expanding Christian population.

Through the *Generation of Hope*, an *Opportunity 21* Scripture-sharing initiative, some 500 young Cambodians from churches around the country study the Bible. The workshops, the first of which took place in 1999, train young people how to share their faith and use their home churches as a base from which to distribute Scriptures in their area and in harder-to-reach rural villages.

Local churches and Christian organizations are becoming increasingly aware of the Bible work in those areas and are inviting the Bible Society to undertake distribution initiatives, not only to church members but also to people who hold positions of authority in the community, such as police officers, teachers and government officials.

Generation of Hope also sponsors a reading

room for children and teenagers at the Bible House in Phnom Penh. Local children find the Scripture-theme books and activities, such as quizzes, very attractive, and parents welcome the fact that their children's literacy skills are improving through their contact with the Word of God.

"At first, I thought I would just come here to read," said 13-year-old Chhorn Richhat, "but now I am becoming more and more interested in Jesus and I would like to come every day during my spare time. Now I can know about the story of creation and the teaching of Jesus about forgiveness and love."

The Bible Society of Cambodia aims to distribute 345,000 Bibles, Scripture audiotapes, booklets and literacy aids to reach at least 50,000 families.

■ N A M I B I A

As part of a countrywide AIDS-prevention campaign aimed at young people, the Bible Society in Namibia (BSN) has distributed 46,000 copies of *Living in Hope*, a Scripture booklet available in all seven Namibia languages.

The BSN and United Bible Societies are working with churches, the government and private organizations in this African

► In Namibia, more than 47,000 children have lost parents to AIDS. The Bible Society in Namibia is using Scripture to help teach young mothers and fathers how to avoid contracting the disease.



THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN CAMBODIA

▲ A young person trained at a workshop held by the Bible Society in Cambodia distributes the Scriptures to a rural family.



MAURICE HARVEY/IBS

country of some 1.8 million people to educate 14- to 25-year-olds about AIDS and its prevention.

The Rev. Bernie van der Walt, executive secretary of the BSN, said the need for preventive education was urgent. "Namibia has the fourth-highest rate of infection in the world, after Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland. Official statistics put the proportion of Namibians infected at one in five, but in some places it may be as high as one in four or even one in three."

Some 47,000 children in the country have already been orphaned by the disease, and in the next two years that number is expected to nearly double to 89,000. It is hoped that the distribution of Scriptures to this high-risk group will save many children and their parents.

■ **M A D A G A S C A R**

The Malagasy Bible Society in Madagascar (an island located off the coast of East Africa), with aid from the historic Bible Society *Opportunity 21* initiative, provides local churches with Bibles and Scripture materials in graded reading levels for distribution to children. (More than 1 million young people between the ages of 11 and 14 live on the island.) Students at the Nazareta School in Antananandroso use the Bible Society New Reader Scripture booklets.

■ **P E R U**

The Peruvian Bible Society, in collaboration with churches in Peru and the Summer Institute of Linguistics, recently completed translation projects of the New Testament in two Quechua languages.

During the launch celebration, the Bible Society showed a video titled *En Su Idioma* (In His Own Language) that emphasized the

importance of making the Word of God available for all who speak the Quechua languages. A reading of Matthew 7:24-27 encouraged those hearing the words of Jesus to put them into practice "like the wise man."

A number of Catholic and evangelical Christian churches of various denominations are distributing nearly 4,000 copies of the new translations.

■ **N E T H E R L A N D S**

What do space exploration, computer games and the Bible have in common? They are all components of a kid-friendly, Scripture-sharing road show touring the Netherlands this year. The Netherlands Bible Society, committed to using multimedia technology to present God's Word, launched the Arkventure Bible Explorer project for school children. A trailer with room for 36 people parks outside schools where children are invited in to watch an animated character called Archie pilot his "Arkventure" craft through outer space. After he crashes, the students, working in teams, play computer games that use Bible-based clues to help guide Archie back to safety.

The Bible Society will reach 30,000 children through Arkventure and will also make it available to churches for youth outreach efforts.



CRAIG PULSIFER

▼ **Computer-savvy Dutch children navigate through one of the interactive exhibits at the Arkventure Bible Explorer project, sponsored by the Netherlands Bible Society.**



SANDRA HAVERMAN/NETHERLANDS BIBLE SOCIETY

quiet time

We hope you will use this guide in your daily study of the Bible, and that you will write to tell us what you think of this feature and how you use it.

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
<p><i>Believe the Good News and Trust in God's Promises</i></p> <p>1 Genesis 12.1-9 2 Exodus 6.1-13</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>3 Exodus 13.3-10 4 Exodus 13.11-22 5 Exodus 33.1-11 6 Deuteronomy 30.1-10 7 Deuteronomy 30.11-20 8 Joshua 1.1-11 9 Joshua 23.1-16</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>10 Joshua 24.1-13 11 Joshua 24.14-28 12 2 Samuel 7.1-17 13 2 Samuel 7.18-29 14 Psalm 89.1-37 15 1 Kings 2.1-9 16 1 Kings 9.1-9</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>17 Jeremiah 23.1-8 18 Jeremiah 29.1-14 19 Jeremiah 31.31-40 20 Jeremiah 33.1-13 21 Jeremiah 33.14-26 22 Ezekiel 11.14-25 23 Ezekiel 20.33-44</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>24 Ezekiel 36.1-15 25 Ezekiel 36.16-38 26 Ezekiel 37.15-28 27 Hebrews 1.1-14 28 Hebrews 2.1-18 29 Hebrews 3.1-19 30 Hebrews 4.1-13</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>31 Hebrews 4.14 — 5.10</p>	<p><i>Believe the Good News and Grow in God's Wisdom</i></p> <p>1 Proverbs 1.1-19 2 Proverbs 1.20-33 3 Proverbs 2.1-22 4 Proverbs 3.1-18 5 Proverbs 3.19-35 6 Proverbs 4.1-27</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>7 Proverbs 8.1-21 8 Proverbs 8.22-36 9 Proverbs 9.1-18 10 Psalm 37.1-22 11 Psalm 37.23-40 12 Psalm 49 13 Psalm 53</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>14 1 Corinthians 1.18-31 15 1 Corinthians 2.1-16 16 1 Corinthians 3.1-23 17 Ecclesiastes 3.1-15 18 Ecclesiastes 3.16 — 4.16 19 Ecclesiastes 5.1-20 20 Psalm 1</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>21 Psalm 119.1-24 22 Psalm 119.25-48 23 Psalm 119.49-72 24 Psalm 119.73-96 25 Psalm 119.97-120 26 Psalm 119.121-144 27 Psalm 119.145-176</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>28 Job 28.1-28 29 James 1.1-18 30 James 3.13-18</p>	<p><i>Believe the Good News and Strive for Peace and Justice</i></p> <p>1 Exodus 20.1-21 2 Exodus 23.1-13 3 Numbers 27.1-11 4 1 Samuel 25.2-35</p> <p>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>5 1 Corinthians 11.17-34 6 Isaiah 28.14-29 7 Isaiah 32.1-20 8 Isaiah 56.1-12 9 Isaiah 58.1-14 10 Isaiah 59.1-21 11 Isaiah 61.1-11</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>12 Jeremiah 22.11-23 13 Ezekiel 11.1-13 14 Ezekiel 11.14-25 15 Deuteronomy 10.12-22 16 Psalm 9 17 Psalm 72 18 Psalm 94</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>19 Amos 5.1-17 20 Amos 5.18-27 21 Micah 2.1-13 22 Micah 3.1-12 23 Micah 4.1-13 24 Micah 6.1-8 25 Micah 6.9-16</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>26 Habakkuk 2.1-20 27 Zephaniah 3.1-13 28 Malachi 1.6 — 2.9 29 James 2.1-13 30 James 4.1-17 31 Psalm 46</p>

REACHING THE REMOTE STEPPES OF SIBERIA

THE DAY ARKADEI SAGDI KNELT to pray, he knew that the God of the universe had heard his heart cry — even from his remote village in Siberia. “That was when I started my own private worship,” he said.

The plains where this former cattle herder makes his home, in the village of Erzin near the Mongolian border of Russia, have witnessed Genghis Khan sweeping through with his hordes of horsemen, as well as the Tibetan Buddhism that became the region’s predominant religion.

“I had feelings about a mixture of religions, including Buddhism, when I was younger,” Mr. Sagdi explained, “but I always had a special feeling when I was in a Christian church.”

One day, he went to explore an abandoned railway car where some Russian workers had once lived while building a road near his house. There he found an icon (a small painted panel depicting a holy figure from Scripture). “I knelt before the icon and talked to God,” he said. “I may have been doing it the wrong way, but I felt comfort in my heart.”

Shortly after, Mr. Sagdi met a Christian minister and began attending his church. He matured spiritually, and was eventually asked to become a pastor himself. His small congregation has grown to 15 men, women and children. “Sometimes we have preaching, sometimes just a fellowship,” he said, “but the Bible is primary in both.”

Some 2,000 people live in the area, and as recently as four years ago, “there was not a single Christian among them,” Mr. Sagdi said. “Now there are about 70 Tuvin believers here.” Most of the people in this Tuva ethnic group speak only the Tuvin language, so Mr. Sagdi had to read from a Russian Bible, translating as he went, to share with his congregants God’s Word.

Now, thanks to an *Opportunity 21* initiative (see related



▲ Ulya Mongush, right, a volunteer with the Baptist Church in Kyzyl, and Arkadei Sagdi discuss the Scripture needs of the isolated Siberian village of Erzin.

cover story), the Bible Society in Russia (BSR), has translated the Scriptures into the Tuvin language. Appropriately called *To the Ends of the Earth*, this program is providing the inhabitants of the remote regions of Siberia with Bibles, New Testaments and children’s Scriptures — to date, more than 66,000 Scriptures.

“The only reason we have access to Bibles here is thanks to the Bible Society,” said Mr. Sagdi, “and we are so grateful for them.” He represents one of the 30 different ethnic groups that make their home in Siberia, each with its own language and culture. Thanks to the work of the BSR and other dedicated Christians, where 10 years before, not a single Christian came from the Tuvin people, now the area hosts 100 Tuvin churches, including Mr. Sagdi’s.

A collection of Russian icons is being shown for the first time in the United States at The Gallery at the American Bible Society, through September 2003. For more information about the exhibition, read The Gallery column on page 18 in this issue, or click on www.americanbible.org. ■

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me... because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

— *Matthew 19.14 GNT*

The children of our world are hungry for God. Sadly, in Belarus, families are disintegrating and there are now more orphans in the country than there were immediately after World War II. Many "orphans" in this country and across the nations of the former Soviet Union have been abandoned by parents who can no longer care for them.

Imagine the power and the possibilities of the Scriptures in the lives of these hurting children. The Bible would help them learn of God's love, give them hope for a better future and preserve them from the emptiness and confusion of being alone in the world. These are the kinds of reassurances that can only be found in the Bible.

With your partnership, the American Bible Society plans to give the Word of God to tens of thousands of orphaned, abandoned and neglected children in the months ahead. Children in Belarus, Colombia, Ghana and other countries around the world need to hear God's message of hope. Your support and prayers are critical to making this possible.



Yes, I want to help share God's Word with children who urgently need a reason to hope. Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____

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