

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

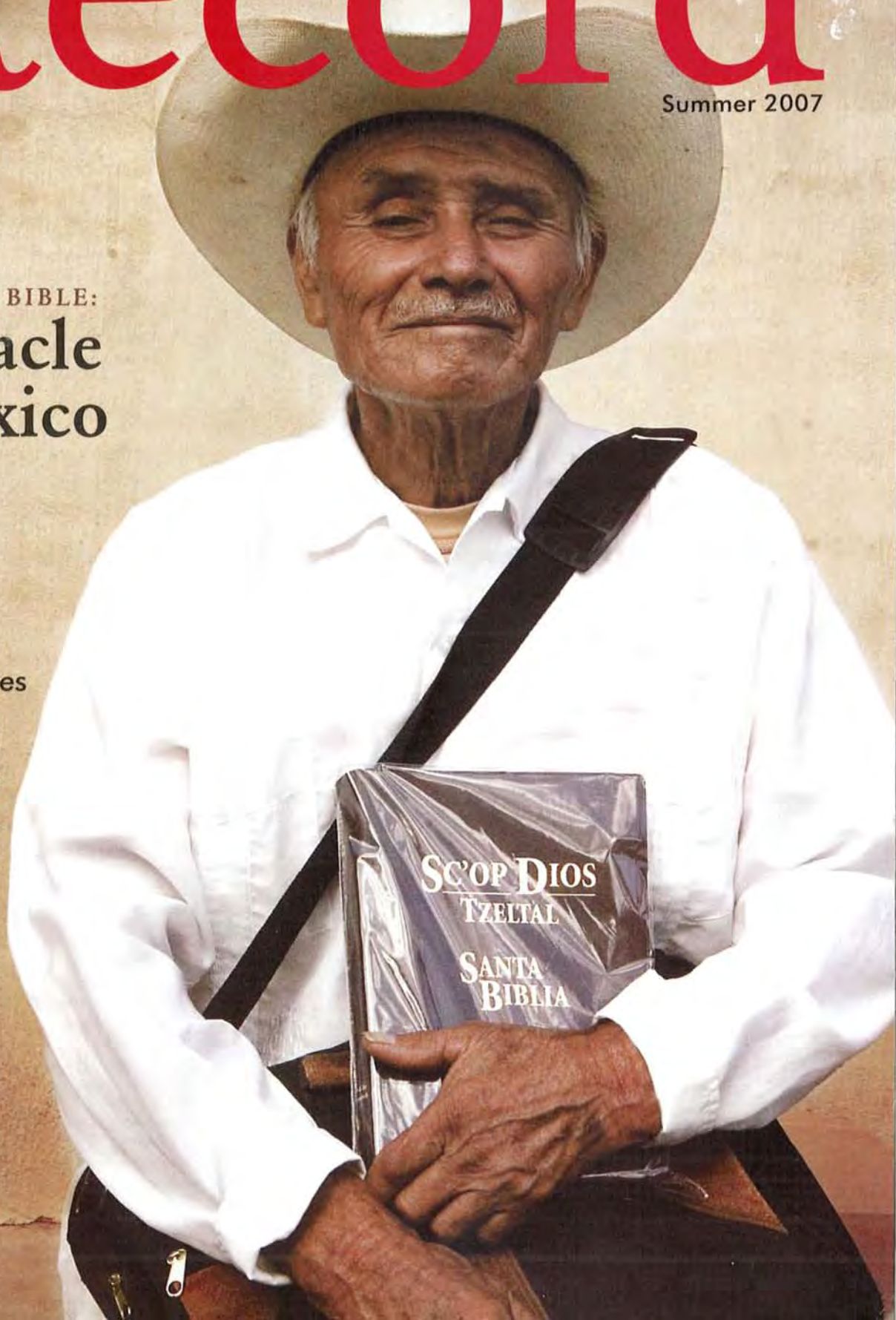
Summer 2007

THE TZELTAL BIBLE:
**A Miracle
in Mexico**

A Home for
Second Chances

Lending a
Hand in Africa

Hope and
Redemption
Behind Bars



Global Reach

"God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do." EPHESIANS 2:10 (GNT)

A year ago, we began to realign the American Bible Society's operations to best pursue our strategy for reaching people for the Bible cause in the years leading up to our bicentennial in 2016. We devised a new structure that is already serving you in your desire to support us in our mission. Our ministry partners — United Bible Societies, Hosanna®, WorldServe, Feed The Children, Samaritan's Purse and others — now form a family of ministry partners.



The American Bible Society's role in this partnership is being expressed through Global Scripture Ministries (GSM), which encompasses both domestic and international Bible access and engagement with a commitment to persuade the world that words matter, and God's Word matters most.

Our former chairman, Dr. R. Lamar Vest, has become the executive director of Global Scripture Ministries. Lamar is diligently pursuing the Lord's call to him in this complex and invigorating new role.

We have a new research unit called Global Scripture Impact, based in Valley Forge, Pa. Its purpose is to seek out, measure and report on potential projects to fund, with the twin goals of reaching people with the Bible and changing lives with its message, targeting the least, the lost and the next generation.

Our funding effort is now called the Global Scripture Fund (GSF, see page 16). This is, in effect, a "spiritual" mutual fund that brings results-oriented kingdom investors and mission-minded spiritual entrepreneurs together. With your continued help, GSF will support the projects that are vital to our mission.

I hope you enjoy reading David Singer's story about a fascinating translation in Chiapas, Mexico, and Francine Lange's intimate look at those in need of our prayers in Denver. Also, we are kicking off "For the Record," a column that spotlights those who work most closely with Bible Society programs.

I pray that each and every one of you finds time for recreation over the summer. Your servant in Christ,



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The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of the Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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Record

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

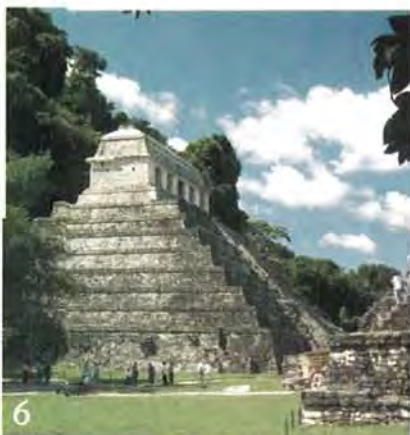
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STORIES OF FAITH

Sing It from the Heart

The 38th Annual Gospel Music Association Dove Awards in Nashville were filled to the rafters with gospel's hottest acts, young and old, from country to hip-hop. And behind each joyful harmony sung in praise, there was a story of an artist brought to God's truth through the Bible.

In interviews before the event, some artists talked about their early struggles with drugs or depression. Joanne Cash said that she was once so low she told her brother Johnny Cash, "All I have is Jesus." He replied, "Joanne, all you need is Jesus."

Their inspiring stories are now as close as your computer. Soon, you can watch two- to five-minute interviews with gospel artists from this year's Dove Awards on ShareYourStoryNow.org, the American Bible Society's Web forum for people to talk about how the Bible has changed their lives.

These clips are just the beginning of video content on the site, according to Scott Wennermark, director of digital ministries at the American Bible Society. He hopes this innovative outreach will inspire "a generation of people who are skeptical and discouraged."

Visit www.ShareYourStoryNow.org for more information. ■

COVER PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER



We encourage you to send your letters and inquiries to: Editor, *American Bible Society Record*, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: 212.408.8754. E-mail: absrecord@AmericanBible.org. For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the *Record*, please call 866.895.4448.

Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

NATIONAL

Pitching the Bible

>>> Yankees pitcher **Mariano Rivera** took “a turn at bat” as a poster boy for the American Bible Society’s **La Biblia Es Mi Guía (The Bible Is My Guide)** advertising campaign, which ran in New York City’s subways in March. Billboards featuring Rivera — some 300 of them — were posted in stations throughout the city’s five boroughs. The campaign was designed to be read more than 60 million times by subway riders in one month.

According to **Abigail Tanori**, manager of communication for the Hispanic/



BASEBALL AND THE BIBLE met in an ad campaign starring pitcher Mariano Rivera.

Latino Ministries at the American Bible Society, “Mariano Rivera has wholeheartedly given his life to God and to the promotion of reading the Bible,” thus making him an ideal spokesman.

The campaign has clearly hit a home run in New York and beyond. Bible Society vice president **Emilio A. Reyes** was interviewed about the posters on *Aquí y Ahora*, a top-rated Univision network show, giving the Bible message even wider reach.

Rare Find

>>>The American Bible Society’s Library and Scripture Collection recently acquired a set of **rare illustrated and modern editions of the Bible**. The precious books were procured in London at an auction of the library of Lord Wardington, which was considered one of the world’s best collections of Bibles.

The Friends of the Library Fund enabled the American Bible Society to obtain 49 English Scriptures, including a customized *King James Bible* published in 1660, a collection of 39 volumes of 20th-century English translations, and nine illustrated Scriptures published after 1900.



THE ALDINE BIBLE, published in 1936, features art by Eric Gill and was acquired recently at auction.

Gospel’s Grammys

>>>On April 25 the **Gospel Music Association Dove Awards** took place at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, honoring the top artists from all areas of modern

gospel music. For the second year in a row, the American Bible Society was named the designated charity for the ceremony.

The event featured live performances, and Dove Awards were given out in 43 categories. Artists represented the genres of pop, rock, praise and worship, black gospel, R&B, hip-hop, Southern gospel and country, showcasing voices of praise across the musical spectrum.

INTERNATIONAL

New Home for Bible Translations

>>>**A new Bible library** was dedicated last fall in São Paulo, Brazil. It is the largest library of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, with more than 17,000 items. Our very own Bible savant **Jacquelyn Sapiie** was on hand to cut the ribbon.

The library, which resides in the Museu da Bíblia of the Bible Society of Brazil (BSB), houses the United Bible Societies (UBS) collection, which was kept until recently at Bible House in New York City.

The new library will be one of two deposit libraries for all new Bible translations published by UBS (the other being the Bible Society collection at Cambridge University Library). The BSB is developing

CELEBRATE THE FULTON STREET REVIVAL!

September will mark the 150th anniversary of one of the most extraordinary revivals in American history — the Fulton Street Revival. It was led by businessman Jeremiah Lanphier in New York City, and during its heyday it brought 10,000 people to Christ every week. The Revival also inspired many of the organizations that made up the Evangelical Social Movement. A conference to commemorate the event will take place September 21 to 23. If you cannot attend, please pray that this anniversary will stimulate an awakening.



FULTON STREET 1857-2007

a Web site that will include a catalogue of the vast collection at the Museu da Biblia.

"Christians and other interested parties will be able to appreciate copies of translations into languages that they never even imagined existed," said the **Rev. Dr. Rudi Zimmer**, executive director of the BSB. The library is open to the public by appointment.

Hang Ten... Commandments?

>>> With its expanse of white sand and strong waves, Tombo Beach, in the tourist destination of Guarujá, Brazil, attracts many surfers. It was the perfect location for **the recent launch of the *Biblia Do Surfista* (Surfer's Bible)**, created by the Bible Society of Brazil and the Christian Surfers Mission (CSM).

Using the *New Translation in Today's Language* in Portuguese and featuring a



contemporary graphic design, the *Surfer's Bible* is visually appealing and easy to read. It is also available in Spanish and French. The national director of CSM said, "Our expectation is that everyone finds here the Creator of the waves they love to surf." ■

BIBLE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 18!

Bible Q&A

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



What are the names of the two people who died next to Jesus?

—GARY, VIA E-MAIL

The men crucified on either side of Jesus are nameless in the Bible. They are identified as robbers, and later tradition gives them the names Zoatham and Camma — or in the apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus (a medieval Latin text), Dysmas and Gestas.

Who were the Midianites, and where on a current map is the area where they lived during Moses' time?

—FRAN, VIA E-MAIL

The Midianites were a nomadic people consisting of five families linked to Abraham. The scholars Josephus, Ptolemy and Eusebius of classical times locate the land of Midian along the eastern coast of the Gulf of Aqaba on the Arabian Peninsula. Today this is part of Saudi Arabia.

The Midianites were the descendants of the union between Abraham and Keturah (Genesis 25.1, 2). The five kings of Midian, mentioned in Numbers 31.8, are Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba. Biblical references suggest the families were a confederation of tribes. In Judges 6.3, 6.33 and 7.2, the Midianites were counted among "the people of the East," a general designation for the nomadic inhabitants

The men crucified on either side of Jesus are nameless in the Bible.

of the Syrian and Arabian deserts. No modern group claims kinship with the Midianites of biblical times.

Can you help me find the verse in the Bible that says something like, "To those who much is given, much is expected"?

—JONE, VIA E-MAIL

This is a paraphrase of Luke 12.48. The exact wording of that verse depends on the translation; for example, the *King James Version* reads, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required," and the *Contemporary English Version* reads, "If God has been generous with you, he will expect you to serve him well." But the words you quoted are those most often remembered and repeated.

Where can I find a Lao Bible?

—MATT, VIA E-MAIL

A Lao Bible can be purchased from the Bibles.org Web site, where Scriptures are available in more than 200 languages. Many are in a bilingual format with English. Since 1818, when the American Bible Society published its first Scripture translation in Native American Delaware, the Society has sponsored translations and made Scriptures available in a wide variety of languages. Those currently available are the ones that are most needed today in the United States. ■

◆ Readers are encouraged to submit their questions about the Bible to Jacquelyn Sapiie, library services supervisor at Bible House in New York City. Questions should be sent to absrecord@americanbible.org or via U.S. mail to American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.





A CHORUS OF JOY rang out as women of Ocosingo, Chiapas, welcomed the Tzeltal Bible translation.



Voices Uplifted

New translations bring hope and salvation to Mexico.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID SINGER

Nov. 25, 2006, turned out sunny and cool, high up in the mountain town of Ocosingo, Mexico. It was the perfect day for an outdoor celebration. Governor Juan Sabines Guerrero, the highest official of the spectacular southern state of Chiapas, where Ocosingo is located, was there. So was Victor Hugo Sánchez Zebadúa, the assistant secretary for religious affairs, as well as international representatives, including Dr. Antonia Lara, the Americas regional secretary from the United Bible Societies (UBS), and Stephen King and Marco Herrera from the American Bible Society.

But the 3,000 local men, women and children who sang and gave thanks that day were the ones who made the most important contribution. They had waited many years for this celebration, the dedication — at long last — of the new *Tzeltal de Bachajón–Spanish Bible*. The printed program for the day captured a long-held hope of these native people. In it was a photograph of three children holding a children's Bible, captioned with Proverbs 22.6 (NIV): "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not turn from it." They made the trip from their local churches to celebrate a new Bible, in which God could finally speak to them in their own language.

TENDING THE SEED

Although this interconfessional translation was a 10-year project, Dr. Robert Bascom, translation consultant for UBS, tells how the need and the solution spanned several decades. Wycliffe's Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) planted the seed with work on the *Tzeltal New Testament*

GATHERED IN HIS NAME, thousands traveled — and stood on the rooftops — to hear readings from the Tzeltal Bible.



as early as the 1940s. Missionaries from the Reformed Church in America watered that seed in Ocosingo and elsewhere in Chiapas during the 1970s. As a result, the church in Southern Mexico has grown, like a tree that bears good fruit, tall and strong.

Chiapas was the center of the powerful Mayan empire from about 250 A.D. to 900 A.D. Nowadays it is one of the poorest

many people do not speak Spanish, including most of the women who attended the festivities that day — a language barrier that underscores the importance of projects like the Tzeltal Bible.

The dedication marked the seventh Bible completed in one of Mexico's many indigenous languages. This one is especially rewarding for Rev. Abner López, director

language and shows them that God speaks their language too. It restores the dignity of their heritage."

STRUGGLES IN CHAMULA

The impact of a Bible translation in Chiapas can be dramatic, but the reception isn't always as joyful as the one in Ocosingo.

In 1960, the Bible Society gave missionaries in the Chiapas town of San Juan Chamula free New Testaments translated into Tzotzil, the local Mayan dialect. The sudden availability of the Word exposed untruths behind the local syncretistic mix of Mayan shamanism and Christian traditions, which involved burning candles during prayers of healing, drinking a potent alcoholic beverage called *bosh* and honoring the saints with drunken festivals and dances. Those practices had become very important to the health of the local economy. The distribution of the Tzotzil Bible fueled a growing church, but it caused the dwindling of sales of *bosh*, candles and related services.

The downturn in business motivated

They made the trip from their local churches to **celebrate a new Bible**, in which God could finally speak to them in their own language.

states in Mexico. Half the population has Mayan roots and speaks a Mayan dialect (57 distinct indigenous languages exist in the region). As a result of civil rights legislation, many of these languages are actively being preserved, and a law passed in the 1980s ensures that children will be taught their native Tzeltal as well as Spanish. But

general of the Bible Society of Mexico, who is himself from Chiapas. Rev. López identifies closely with the struggles of Mexico's 10 million indigenous peoples. "This translation is very important for the cultural identity of these people," he said. "It's important for these minorities to recognize the value of their own culture. Translation rescues their

local strongmen to act, inciting the burning of homes and crops. Rev. Mario Gómez López tells how thugs killed some pastors and cut out another's tongue. All in all, 33,000 Christians were driven out of town.

In 1965, Rev. Gómez López was expelled from Chamula with his wife and three children. He described that "day of death" in detail. "The elders in the community noticed that those who believed the gospel gave up drinking, burning candles and incense; they no longer complied with local traditional practices," he said. The change of traditions was threatening to many, and the leaders stirred up an angry and violent crowd to drive them out of town. "With homemade guns and clubs, they surrounded our house; they threw us out of my house — they threw me in jail. Eventually I was forced to walk three or four hours to the courthouse. There I had to sign a paper renouncing my property."

COMMUNITIES OF HOPE

Yet these Christians remained faithful, re-establishing themselves in new villages of believers. Adopting names such as New Hope and New Jerusalem, the churches form the center of these diaspora communities. Today, their streets, most of which have biblical names, are free of the litter and the outward signs of poverty that still characterize streets in Chamula.

Now the pastor of the church in New Jerusalem, Rev. Gómez López is hopeful. "We live in unity." After a funeral service he had conducted for a 14-year-old parishioner, he said, "In earlier years, there would

have been drinking and brawling [here]. Today there was sadness, but also harmony and singing praises to God." He sees his new life as a clear way forward. "I feel reborn in this new community."

Among Indian groups, Rev. Abner López said, familiarity with Scripture raises concern for the rights and care of children. Reading the Scriptures also results in women being treated with greater dignity. One example comes from high in the mountains above San Juan Christobel, where Manuel López Collazo, a former shaman from Chamula, turned to Christ thanks to the courage of his wife.

Tired of her husband's abusive, drunken fits, Sabastiana reluctantly left Manuel to live with her brother in Betanía. He gave her a Tzotzil Bible to read. Sabastiana decided to go back to her husband. When she returned with a Bible, Manuel at first was furious. But he was soon won over by the change he saw in Sabastiana. Manuel has since given up drinking, and today the two of them read God's Word together. Now that he's sober, he can better support his wife and son.

This transforming power of God's Word is, according to Rev. Abner López, what also makes it a cornerstone in their legal struggles. The concentration of Mexico's minorities is highest in Chiapas and their battle for equal rights has been most visible here. The

Bible Society of Mexico used *Life in All Its Fullness: The Word of God and Human Rights*, a 72-page Scripture booklet first published by the American Bible Society, as the foundation for its own booklet on human rights. The Bible Society translated this work into eight of Mexico's minority languages, with some published in bilingual versions that use one of the indigenous languages along-



A MAYAN TEMPLE stands crumbling in Palengue. Almost half of the people in Chiapas still speak Mayan dialects.

side Spanish. More than 300,000 have been distributed. Many more copies of the booklet are in circulation.

This hope for the future is perhaps the most enduring legacy of Scripture among the people of Chiapas. Rev. Abner López says, "The distribution of God's Word and human rights go together. When people read the Bible they realize they're human beings made in the image of God — they realize their true humanity as God's children." ■

HEARING THE WORD IN TZOTZIL

Rev. Domingo Hernández is a pastor for one of the 20 or so churches established by displaced Christians from Chamula. Because many in his congregation of 400 can't read, he began recording Audio Scriptures in Tzotzil with *Faith Comes By Hearing®* (FCBH).

Some church members hear the tapes in group listening sessions. Others tune their radios to Station Betanía at one of five different times during the day, where they can hear their pastor reading from Corinthians, Romans or Acts.

The program also promotes literacy, especially among women who receive little formal education. They can follow along in their Tzotzil Bible as they listen.

"Almost all my church is involved in FCBH," says Rev. Hernández. "Hearing God's Word strengthens their faith."





A Place Called Home

A Christ-centered program helps families in desperate need.

STORY AND PHOTO BY FRANCINE LANGE

A large brick house sits on the east side of Denver, its cement porch graced with potted posies and ferns. A lace curtain lends a dignified privacy to the front door. The neighborhood is experiencing steady gentrification — as the people living at the Denver Rescue Mission's Champa House experience their own restoration of the body and spirit.

Kelly and her boys, Dylan and Gavin (pictured above), moved into Champa House in 2005. She describes her own history of childhood neglect and troubled adolescence, from making and selling methamphetamine to jail time and temporarily losing custody of her sons. She suffered abuse from an addicted boyfriend and became pregnant with a third child as she struggled to pay the rent. In desperation, Kelly met with a Christian couple who would eventually adopt her unborn child.

Then her life took an unexpected turn. She heard about a program that would open the door to a life she'd only dreamed about.

"I was very scared," she recalls. But she attended the orientation at Champa House, a transitional home for single mothers that provides job training, life and parenting

skills, family therapy, and room and board. The house serves mothers and children fleeing from a violent environment and those recovering from substance abuse. The average stay is about two years.

The New Life program at Champa House tailors learning to individual needs, with the final goal of self-sufficiency. Residents must earn their general educational development (GED) credential, finish assigned chores and attend a weekly Bible study. Rules include mandatory church attendance and a curfew.

"It's a safe place to live," says Angela Magnotta, program director of Champa House, who cites a 50% success rate for these families. The activities, training and interaction all point back to godly principles. Whether residents listen to a sermon or work on anger management, "they're being immersed in the Word of God to some degree."

Kelly's stay at Champa House turned a desperate situation into a hopeful one, and she has already accomplished one of her goals: In 2006 she earned her GED.

God's Word lived out in the people and activities at Champa House guided her steps. Says Kelly, "It's taught me how to grow up, and it has brought me a lot closer to God." ■

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE

Each woman entering Champa House receives a specially designed "Butterfly" New Testament, a gift from the Estate of Eleanor Searle Whitney McCollum.

This New Testament and other free Scripture resources are available for churches and ministries. Call 1.800.322.4253 or write to "Faith Sharing Tools" at the American Bible Society for more information.



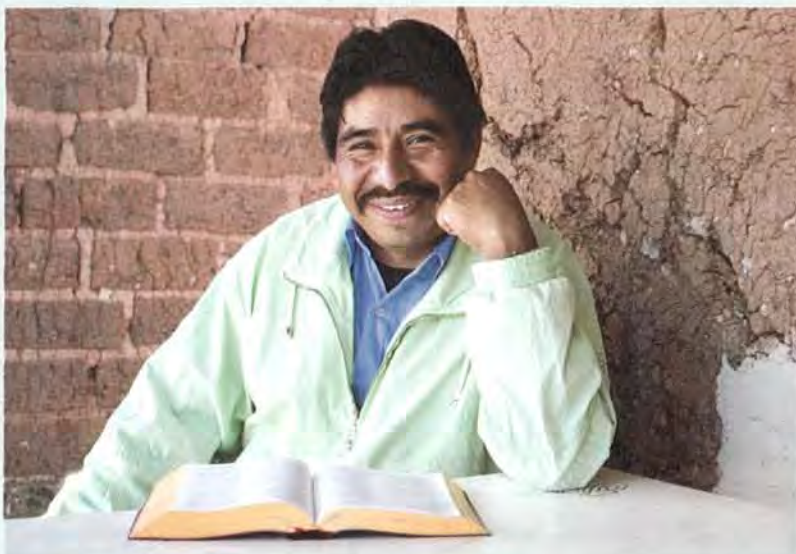
➔ To learn more about Champa House, visit www.denverrescuemission.org/champa.html.

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

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

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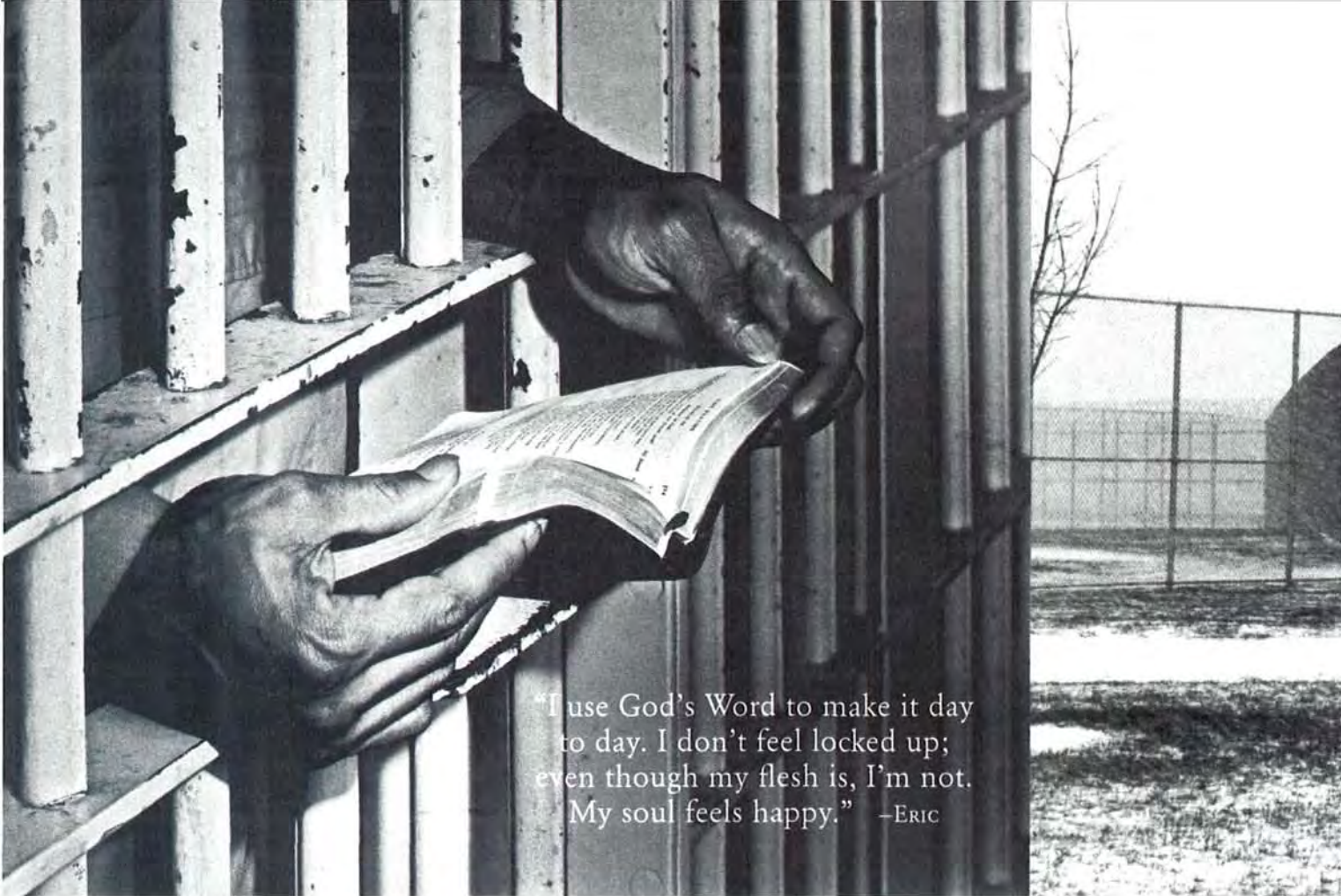
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"I use God's Word to make it day to day. I don't feel locked up; even though my flesh is, I'm not. My soul feels happy." —ERIC

Forgive Us Our Trespasses

The life-changing impact of God's
Word behind bars

Men and women behind bars are generally invisible to the rest of America. They often feel forgotten by society as they live out lonely lives, wrestling with guilt and anger over the mistakes they have made. God, however, has not forgotten them.

Chaplains who work in correctional facilities across the country are committed to sharing God's Word of love and hope with these inmates. Unfortunately, most of these facilities do not budget for Bibles. That's where the American Bible Society comes in. Through a commitment to sharing God's life-changing message, the incarcer-

ated can come to know Jesus Christ and the freedom of his truth. For inmates, having a Bible in hand can be a first step in a positive course for change, forgiveness, love — and even joy.

In bringing the Word behind bars, the Bible Society's Correctional Program delivers Bibles where they are needed most. It sent more than 5,000 cases of Scriptures to correctional chaplains during the 2006 fiscal year; by the end of 2006, it had reached a milestone by granting more than half a million Scriptures to correctional chaplains in five years. On average, the Bible Society provides Scripture to an inmate every five minutes.

The Bible Society maintains exclusive standing as America's only



source to grant Protestant and Catholic Bibles on a large scale to correctional chaplains. This relationship calls not only for perseverance but also flexibility, according to Drew Segawa, the correctional program manager who coordinates the task of distribution to correctional facilities nationwide.

Bibles destined for prisoners' hands must meet specific criteria, he says. Small-print versions are unreadable by many prisoners who live in poorly lit cells or who lack basic access to eye care. Many prisons also have strict rules about books, including what kinds of paper and bindings are allowed.

Because Bibles are hard to come by on the inside, they also become cherished possessions. "You've got someone who's in for life, or someone who's on death row, and you give them a Bible — that's going to be their Bible for the rest of their life," Segawa says.

The Bible Society isn't working alone. The partnership of American Rehabilitation Ministries (ARM), which is based in Joplin, Mo., is vitally important. Since 1973, ARM has been deeply involved in the spiritual lives of the incarcerated. The agency's current programs include in-prison

seminars, free baptistries for prison chaplains, a "Christian greeting card" ministry and a Bible study correspondence course funded through scholarships. ARM has opened the doors of its warehouses to the Bible Society, where donated Scriptures are housed until they can be distributed where there is a need.

"There is no greater rehabilitation process in one's life than growing in our Creator and Lord," says Bill Blair, vice president of ARM. "The ABS Correctional Program has been and is a blessing."

Hector A. Chiesa, the ministerial program coordinator for the New York State Department of Correctional Services, can vouch for the work that the Bible Society and its partners do for the spiritual lives of inmates. New York State alone maintains 350 chaplains at 71 facilities — but provides no funds to purchase Scriptures. Chiesa says that the access to Bibles through ARM and the Bible Society is an enormous help in fulfilling the responsibility the Lord has given correctional chaplains.

"In my 30 years of experience, the Bible is the most important book for an inmate. It's the most effective tool that the chaplains have," Chiesa says. "The correctional program is a blessing." ■

HELP THEM TO FIND PEACE

Free Scriptures are available for official correctional staff chaplains located within the U.S. Contact us for more information. Call 1.212.408.1310, or write to: **Correctional Program, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.** Please indicate your title, position and contact information and whether you are interested in Protestant or Catholic materials or both.



Healing Africa

BY CHARLIE KRUEGER



SCRIPTURE OFFERS HOPE for Africa in a time of crisis, especially to the young (left). Charlie Krueger (right) shares Scripture and helps to plan for the future.

I have had the privilege of visiting Africa several times on behalf of the American Bible Society to distribute Scriptures and to meet with United Bible Societies (UBS) colleagues in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Recently, I was there to strategize with other Bible Society representatives about one of the greatest crises facing that continent — the ever-present AIDS pandemic. We met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the third annual HIV/AIDS Joint Evaluation workshop meeting for Africa.

The numbers are alarming. In 2005, 2.5 million people died of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. That same year 3.2 million more became infected. In my role as foundations manager of the Global Scripture Fund, I work with colleagues who are tirelessly bringing life-changing scriptural solutions to the AIDS crisis.

One of the leading lights in that effort is the Good Samaritan Outreach Program. It combines information about HIV/AIDS with the Bible's messages of hope and responsibility. The multimedia package *Where Is the Good Samaritan Today?* is the starting point for exploring the example of action and compassion found in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25–37), who does not turn away from a man

injured on the road. That powerful message of responsibility is a timely reminder for a continent where those who are suffering often face social stigma in addition to their illness. *Take Charge* is another multimedia UBS AIDS package that is specifically geared toward younger people.

By the end of 2007, it is expected that as many as 24 countries in Africa will be involved in launching and implementing the Good Samaritan practices for providing true scriptural support to those with HIV/AIDS. The program represents the second-largest unified Bible cause initiative ever undertaken during the 60-year history of the United Bible Societies (the largest was Opportunity 21).

Konstane Raen, the UBS HIV/AIDS consultant for Africa who conceived of the idea and worked on the materials, says, "When introducing the booklet, I often compare it with a hoe. It is not big or sophisticated, but practical and easy to use, especially at the grassroots level."

It was very moving to see how the Lord has called and empowered these dedicated Bible Society colleagues to step out boldly and begin to take charge of this issue. As countless testimonies and case studies show, the Bible Societies of Africa are clearly making a difference. ■

In his nine years with the American Bible Society, **Charlie Krueger** has crisscrossed the globe, and now serves as foundations manager of the Global Scripture Fund. A new series, **For the Record** showcases stories from Bible Society staff members.

◆ Visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org and click on "World's Greatest Gift Catalog" for a giving opportunity in Africa.



Please Pray

“NEVER STOP PRAYING, ESPECIALLY FOR OTHERS. ALWAYS PRAY BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT. STAY ALERT AND KEEP PRAYING FOR GOD’S PEOPLE.” EPHESIANS 6.18 (CEV)

AFGHANISTAN

Continue to pray for peace in this country. Ask God to provide opportunities for his people to distribute his Word, particularly the Dari New Testament and the Dari Book of Genesis. May these Scriptures speak to the hearts of all those who read them.

IRAN

Praise God for the release of the new Persian translation this

year and pray for many opportunities to distribute it; may it bring encouragement, strength and guidance to all who read it. Pray for a greater openness to Christian activities and for the growth of Christian influence in this country. Ask God to protect and guide church leaders and all who seek to do his work in this nation.

PAKISTAN

Praise God for the progress in our work over the past year. As we launch the computerized Urdu Bible with study notes, pray that it will bless all who

use it and deepen their understanding of the Scriptures. Pray for the progress of our interconfessional translation project and lift up in prayer the teams from the Catholic Bible Commission Pakistan and the Pakistan Bible Society as we work together bringing it to completion.

TURKEY

Give thanks for the recent completion and printing of the New Testament in the Kurmanji dialect of Kurdish and also for the completion of the Syriac scholarly edition of

the Bible. Pray that we will be able to complete and print the Turkish Bible Dictionary, the first of its kind. Pray also that we will be able to reach more people through our presence at book fairs. Please pray that funds will become available to complete the Kurdish Old Testament.

Pray for the safety of those who distribute Scripture here. Pray for the families of the three men who were killed at the Bible publishing offices in Malatya, that the biblical message of hope and forgiveness will triumph over violence. ■

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*“Remember the LORD in everything you do,
and he will show you the right way.”*

PROVERBS 3.6 (GNT)



What God Has Joined

BY LIZ SMITH

The Reverend Lyle Olmstead and his bride of 64 years, Arlene (pictured), credit the Lord for their accomplishments and happiness. And the secret to their longevity? No smoking or drinking, says Lyle, and exercising every day. All along their journey together, little by little, one way they have expressed their gratitude to God has been in their faithful giving to the American Bible Society.

Lyle and Arlene grew up during the Depression — Lyle remembers his family planting gardens to supply their food. His forebears were United Brethren in Christ ministers. He and Arlene met and married as undergraduates at Huntington University in Indiana. After finishing divinity school in Illinois, Lyle served as a chaplain in the Korean War.

Upon his return he began studying for a master's degree in guidance and counseling. In addition to working as a family therapist, Lyle pastored congregations for 20 years. A pearl of wisdom he can impart from his years of family counseling is that the happiest and longest-surviving marriages are between people who have common interests.

Arlene's father was a lay pastor. She was always available to play the piano wherever he preached. This graciousness carried over into her marriage — Lyle says that over the course of their lives together, whenever they received word that they were going somewhere new, Arlene was the first one out the door. “Her excitement and energy has been a lifelong blessing to me.”

The Olmsteads have taken their gifts around the world. In China, Lyle taught English as a second language; in Pakistan they helped restart a school. Upon their retirement, they embarked on an unusual adventure. They served as volunteer camp hosts in the state parks along the coast of Oregon, giving tourists the history and run of various lighthouses.

An American Bible Society representative once told them that 100% percent of their gifts would go to fulfilling the mission, and that is still true. Lyle and Arlene have generously supported the Bible cause through the Bible-a-Month Club®, several American Bible Society gift annuities and they've named the Bible Society a beneficiary in their will. We are honored by and grateful for their long-standing trust and eternal investment. ■

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

Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS

“Jesus got up and gave an order to the wind and to the stormy water; they quieted down, and there was a great calm.”

LUKE 8.24B (GNT)

JULY 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND BE SURROUNDED BY WITNESSES IN FAITH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ACTS 6.1-15	2 ACTS 7.1-16	3 ACTS 7.17-29	4 ACTS 7.30-8.3	5 ACTS 8.4-25	6 ACTS 8.26-40	7 ACTS 18.1-23
8 ACTS 18.24-19.10	9 ACTS 19.11-20	10 ACTS 19.21-41	11 ACTS 20.1-16	12 ACTS 20.17-38	13 ACTS 21.1-16	14 ACTS 21.17-36
15 ACTS 21.37-22.16	16 ACTS 22.17-29	17 ACTS 22.30-23.11	18 ACTS 23.12-22	19 ACTS 23.23-35	20 ACTS 24.1-23	21 ACTS 24.24-25.12
22 ACTS 25.13-27	23 ACTS 26.1-32	24 ACTS 27.1-38	25 ACTS 27.39-28.10	26 ACTS 28.11-31	27 GALATIANS 1.1-24	28 GALATIANS 2.1-21
29 HEBREWS 11.1-22	30 HEBREWS 11.23-40	31 HEBREWS 12.1-13				

AUGUST 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HEBREWS 12.14-29	2 HEBREWS 13.1-25	3 2 CORINTHIANS 4.1-15	4 2 CORINTHIANS 4.16-5.10
5 2 CORINTHIANS 5.11-21	6 2 CORINTHIANS 6.1-7.1	7 2 CORINTHIANS 7.2-16	8 2 CORINTHIANS 10.1-18	9 1 THESSALONIANS 1.1-10	10 1 THESSALONIANS 2.1-16	11 1 THESSALONIANS 2.17-3.13
12 1 THESSALONIANS 4.1-18	13 1 THESSALONIANS 5.1-28	14 2 THESSALONIANS 1.1-12	15 2 THESSALONIANS 2.1-17	16 2 THESSALONIANS 3.1-18	17 1 TIMOTHY 1.1-20	18 1 TIMOTHY 2.1-15
19 1 TIMOTHY 3.1-16	20 1 TIMOTHY 4.1-16	21 1 TIMOTHY 5.1-16	22 1 TIMOTHY 5.17-6.2A	23 1 TIMOTHY 6.2B-21	24 2 TIMOTHY 1.1-18	25 2 TIMOTHY 2.1-13
26 2 TIMOTHY 2.14-26	27 2 TIMOTHY 3.1-17	28 2 TIMOTHY 4.1-22	29 TITUS 1.1-16	30 TITUS 2.1-15	31 TITUS 3.1-15	

SEPTEMBER 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND GROW IN GOD'S WISDOM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 LUKE 6.17-36
2 LUKE 6.37-49	3 LUKE 8.1-18	4 LUKE 11.14-36	5 LUKE 11.37-54	6 LUKE 12.1-21	7 LUKE 12.22-48	8 LUKE 12.49-59
9 LUKE 13.1-21	10 LUKE 13.22-35	11 LUKE 14.1-14	12 LUKE 14.15-35	13 LUKE 15.1-32	14 1 CORINTHIANS 1.18-31	15 1 CORINTHIANS 2.1-16
16 1 CORINTHIANS 3.1-23	17 JAMES 1.1-27	18 JAMES 2.1-26	19 JAMES 3.1-18	20 JAMES 4.1-17	21 JAMES 5.1-20	22 ECCLESIASTES 3.1-15
23 PSALM 119.1-24	24 PSALM 119.25-48	25 PSALM 119.49-72	26 PSALM 119.73-96	27 PSALM 119.97-120	28 PSALM 119.121-144	29 PSALM 119.145-176
30 PROVERBS 8.1-36						



| In Memoriam |

“For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below — there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.” ROMANS 8.38, 39 (GNT)

OUR NEPHEW, Jason K. Chappell

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM E. HOFFMAN

MY WIFE, Irma Davis

GIVEN BY MERRILL A. DAVIS

Maxine Forschler

GIVEN BY LASSEN VIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

MY COUSIN, Harold “Harry” Franz

GIVEN BY MS. JANE E. MANGOLD

MY MOTHER, Bertha B. Gifford

GIVEN BY REV. WILLIAM C. GIFFORD

Helen M. Hahn

GIVEN BY BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MY WIFE, Helene Hansen

GIVEN BY MR. CLAIRE HANSEN

Sean Holloway

GIVEN BY MR. RONALD J. HOLLOWAY

Joyce Horton

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. ROBERT F. MATTHEWS

MY MOTHER, Doris C. Howard

(Mrs. A. B. Howard)

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Laura Jopling

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