

Bibles for Prisoners... Scout's Honor page 4

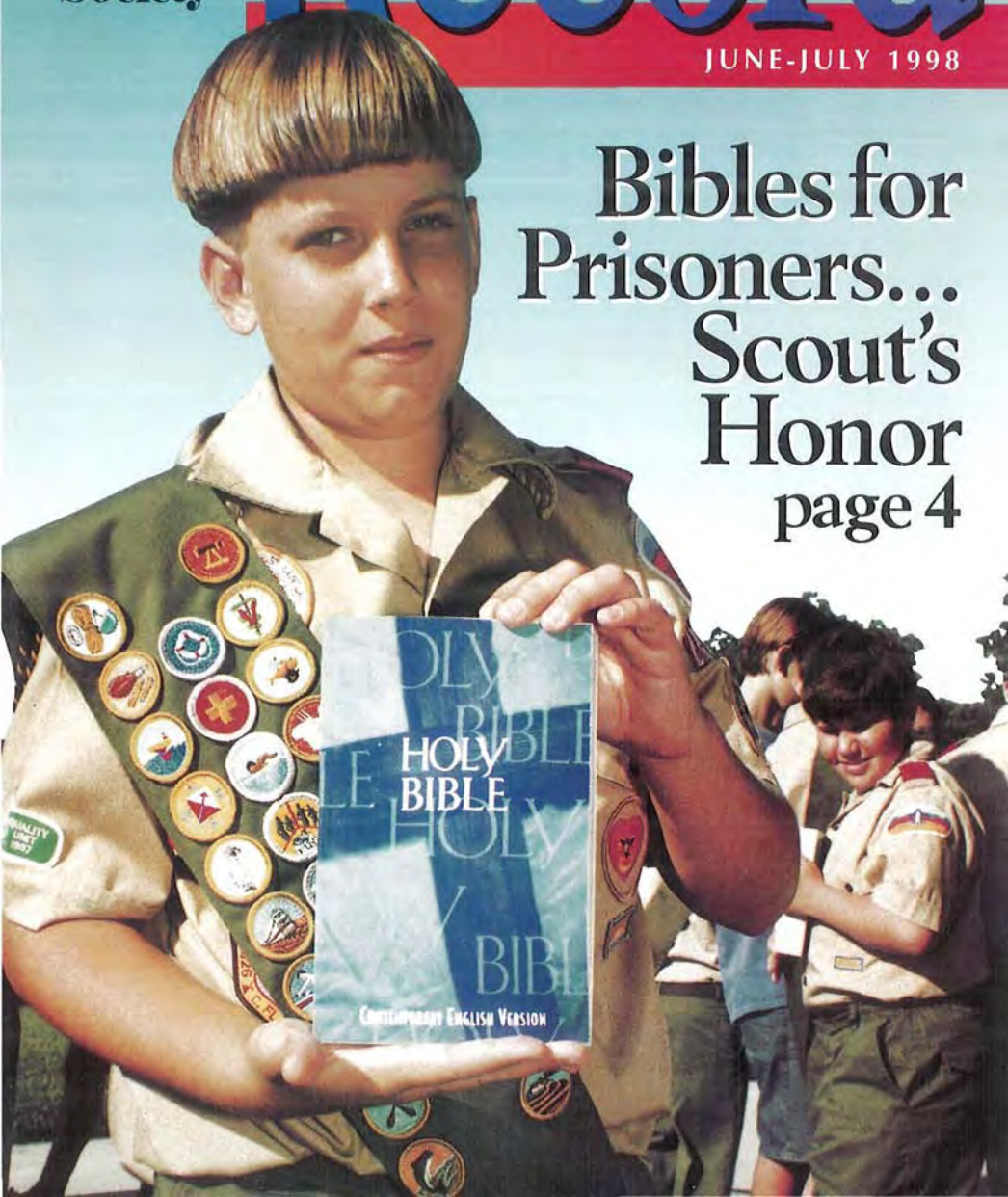




PHOTO BY R. SCOTT MARTIN

ON THE COVER: Ryan Austin's faith led him to lead and serve his community by providing a trailer full of the Good News to the county jail.

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The mission of the American Bible Society is to provide the Holy Scriptures to every man, woman and child in a language and form each can readily understand, and at a price each can easily afford. This purpose, undertaken without doctrinal note or comment, and without profit, is a cause which all Christians and all churches are urged to support. 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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From the President

The Story Behind the Stories



Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die."
John 11.25 (CEV)

We have resurrection news to write about in every *Record*, first, because of the life-giving power of the message we share. God's Word speaks to people's hearts in a way that nothing else can. After all, its author knows us—our needs and desires—better than we know ourselves.

But the Bible message only brings new life to people as they hear it, read it, or see it lived out. And that's the good news we write about—the partnerships ABS builds with organizations and individuals who use the Scriptures—Scriptures ABS is able to provide through its supporters—to speak to people's needs and to change lives. Our cover story is one example.

You will want to read how a 13-year-old Boy Scout partners with ABS so he can realize his dream to become an Eagle Scout. But he also has a larger vision—to help a chaplain who needs Bibles and prisoners who need hope. Like most resurrection stories, the mission of sharing God's Word

inspired many other people to get involved—people whose faithfulness was crucial to Ryan Austin's success.

This is the way every ABS story takes shape. Many people who have critical roles to play will remain unnamed—the other Scouts in Ryan's Troop, for example, who helped him raise funds and deliver Bibles.

Another key group who made Ryan's community service project a success were the ABS supporters who make the ABS Grants Program possible. Behind every ABS partnership, whether it is with Year of the Bible in El Paso, Texas, or Prison Fellowship's *Angel Tree*, or Promise Keepers' *Stand in the GAP*, are thousands of faithful, unnamed ABS supporters who provide the Word of God to millions of people here and around the world.

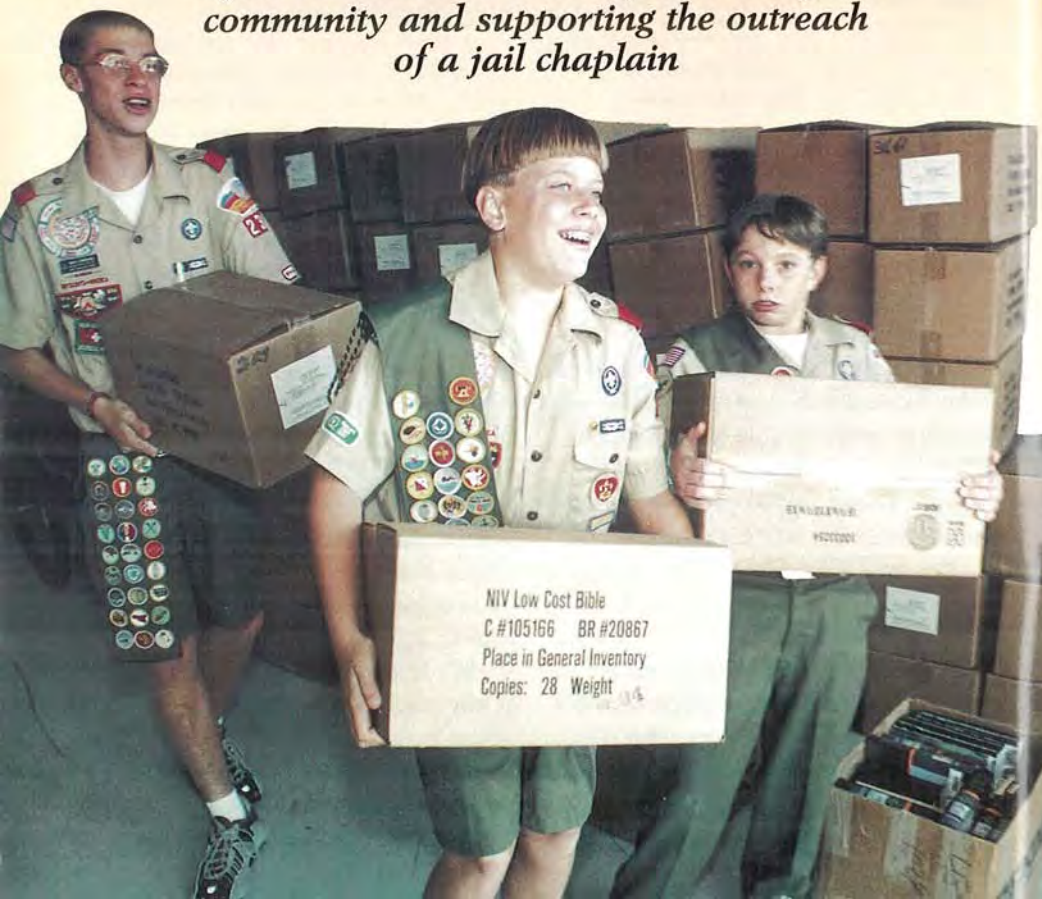
My thanks to you for taking part in our resurrection stories.

Eugene B. Habecker

Eugene B. Habecker

Bibles for Prisoners... Scout's Honor

*Ryan Austin leads the way in serving his
community and supporting the outreach
of a jail chaplain*





n Good Friday, usually a dark day in the church calendar, Ryan Austin and the rest of Boy Scout Troop

234 were already driving toward Easter Sunday. After months of hard work Ryan and his friends were about to deliver a trailer full of resurrection hope to Chaplain Charles B. Pitroff and the prisoners at the Seminole County jail.

At first, response had been discouraging. Only a few parents had answered Ryan's appeal for help. But then, remembering his goal and how far he had already come, Ryan thought: God isn't going to let me fail.

Only last summer he had earned an impressive 16 merit badges toward Eagle Scout—the Boy Scouts' highest rank. His next requirement was to earn the community service badge. He needed a project designed to benefit others while demonstrating his leadership skills.

As he had done so many times before, Ryan went to his dad, Stan, for help. As they discussed various project possibilities, nothing seemed quite right until Ryan remembered a need his dad had learned about at church one evening when one of Pitroff's staff spoke. Ryan's project idea began to gel.

Assistant Chaplain James Cawthon had said that, because of a constantly rotating inmate population, the Chaplain's Department went through four

or five thousand Bibles every year. And, because many of the inmates had poor reading skills, easy-to-read modern translations were especially needed.

Chaplain Cawthon also said that low-cost modern translations, such as the *New International Version (NIV)*, were available from the American Bible Society, located in New York City, and he had given out ABS's toll-free phone number.

A few days later Ryan's idea came together like an inspiration. "Mom, Dad," he announced, "for my community service merit badge I want to donate 2,000 Bibles for use at the jail!"

Stan and Alana Austin looked at each other, struck by the magnitude and quality of Ryan's proposal. They were proud of Ryan's decision, but worried that the high goal he had set might be too ambitious for a 13-year-old boy.

With a mixture of confidence and concern Mr. Austin gently counseled, "Okay, son, you know we're behind you, but how about making your task a little easier, say, 1,200 Bibles?"

Knowing that his parents placed God at the center of the family and every decision gave Ryan tremendous confidence. When he was seven, his parents had encouraged him to join the Cub Scouts, and together, they prayed about it. Six years later when Ryan announced his intention to work for Eagle Scout, again his family gathered around him in support—and joined hands in prayer.

Now the Austins again turned to

God for guidance. Ryan agreed to scale down his goal and submitted his project proposal to the Boy Scouts of America. In January 1998, it was approved.

Ryan launched into his fundraising campaign. With the help of his older brother Richard and the family computer, he designed flyers promoting the project. He and Richard passed the flyers out at school, encouraging classmates to ask their parents to support his community effort.

But nearly every afternoon, Ryan would return from the mailbox empty-handed, and his disappointment began to show.

Finally Alana Austin took her son

aside. "Tell you what," she said. "Let's mail an appeal to everyone on our Christmas list."

Mr. and Mrs. Austin helped Ryan draft a letter to 65 friends and relatives. "I need your help," his letter read, "so that... I can purchase *New International Version* soft-covered Bibles for \$2.50 each. You could make a tax-deductible donation for this project. Checks should be made payable to Troop 234 and on the memo line write 'Ryan Austin Eagle Project.'"

Ryan also solicited fellow church members for support. From the beginning of January until early February, he and several other scouts, smart-

The Rev. Charles B. Pitroff of the Seminole County jail accepts an ABS Bible from Ryan Austin. Sheriff D.F. Eslinger (far left) and Ryan's father, Stan (right), look on.



ly dressed in their uniforms, manned a table at the back of the sanctuary after services. Ryan had hit on a good combination and his commitment began to pay off.

Family and friends who received the request started sending checks, often with letters of encouragement. Many in the church gave as well. Two women, whom Ryan barely knew, each handed him checks for \$500.

By late February, with gifts still coming in, Ryan had the funds needed to purchase his scaled-down goal of 1,200 Bibles. However, Ryan's letter to ABS was not clear about whether he wanted to make an outright purchase of 1,200 Bibles or whether he was also asking ABS to supply some of the Bibles through its grants program. The letter was forwarded to Kim Reese Williams in the ABS Scripture Grants Program.

"I called him to clarify," Williams recalls, "and a nice lady answered the phone. When I asked for Ryan, she told me he was in school. At that point I asked her how old Ryan was, and she told me—13!"

Williams, concerned that such a young man might not realize how much 1,200 Bibles would cost, explained to Mrs. Austin that the Bibles Ryan wanted sold for \$3.95 apiece.

"Ryan's already raised nearly \$3,400," Mrs. Austin proudly explained. "That will buy about 850 Bibles. Can we lower the quantity?"

"Actually, Mrs. Austin, we can raise the quantity," Williams replied. "You see, the ABS Scripture Grants

Program can match every Bible Ryan purchases with a free one. That would bring the total to 1,700 Bibles."

When Alana Austin told him about the ABS grant that evening Ryan took it as another sign of God's favor. He had already surpassed his goal of 1,200 Bibles and donations were still pouring in. By late March, Ryan was able to send an additional \$1,300 to ABS, securing another 650 Bibles under the unexpected 2-for-1 arrangement.

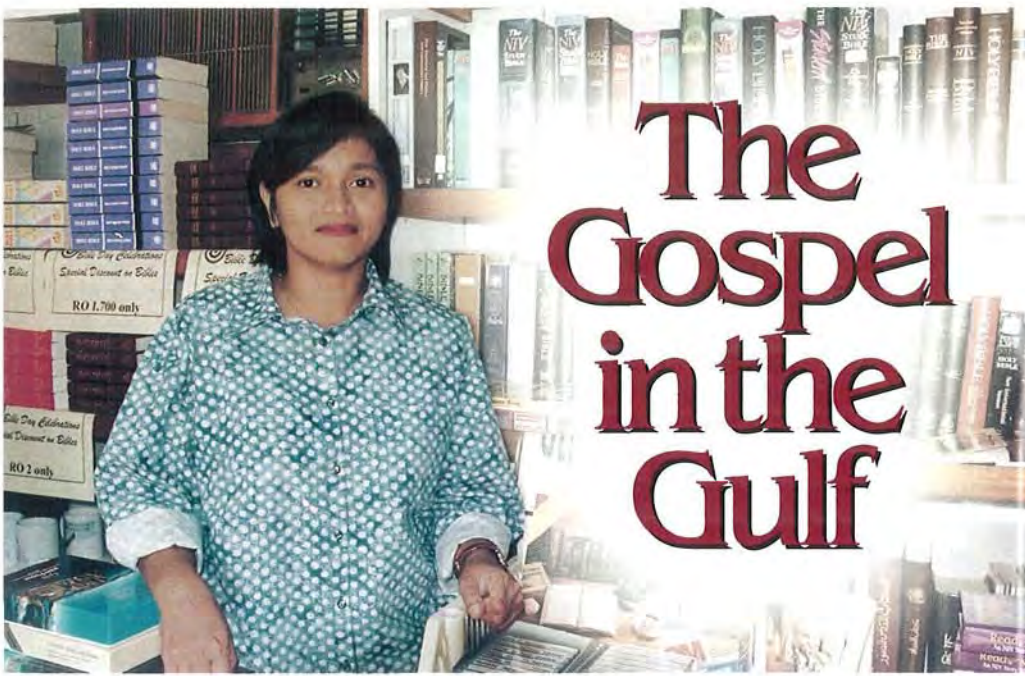
The Austins now called Chaplain Cawthon and let him in on him Ryan's success story—he and his Scout troop would present the jail with 2,300 Bibles.

"Praise the Lord!" Cawthon responded. His jail-house congregation would have a brighter Easter thanks to a youthful bearer of God's Word.

Early Good Friday morning, April 10, 1998, Boy Scout Troop 234—led by Ryan Austin—loaded up a car trailer with cases of ABS Bibles and headed for the Seminole County jail. They were met there by the Rev. Charles B. Pitroff, head chaplain at the jail, Chaplain Cawthon, Sheriff D.F. Eslinger, and a throng of TV, radio and newspaper reporters who were eager to cover the good-will presentation.

Handing Ryan a Certificate of Merit, Sheriff Eslinger said, "Your efforts not only benefit the inmates but

Continued on page 21



The Gospel in the Gulf

Carol Samarista shares the Word of God with customers in the Bible Center in Muscat, Oman.

With the world's attention again focused on growing tensions in the Persian Gulf, the Bible Society looks to a less heralded trend: growing interest in the Word of God. Here are reports from several Gulf States:

Iraq

“Despite all the problems the Iraqi people are facing,” says Jamal

Hashweh, general secretary of the Bible Society in Jordan, “the demand for Bibles and biblical material there is increasing every day.”

In response, a team consisting of two members of Hashweh’s staff and one from the Bible Society in Lebanon left Amman, Jordan, in late January, bound for the Iraqi border with 140,000 Children’s Bibles, 10,000 Scripture Study Books, and 115,000 Scripture Calendars, the first of two Scripture shipments sanctioned by the Iraqi government. Team members estimated it would take several weeks to deliver their cargo to Iraq, where the Scriptures were to be distributed through churches. According to

Hashweh, Iraqi churches will soon be getting a second shipment as well. "We are continuing with preparation of 200,000 New Testaments," he said, "... for distribution in Christian schools in two months' time."

Oman

Customers of the Muscat Bible Shop in Muscat, Oman, have a friend in Bible Society Volunteer Carol Samarista. The married mother of three moved to Oman from the Philippines several years ago when her husband, an architect, was transferred. She spends many hours working in the Bible Shop, helping customers find just the right Scripture products for themselves or their ministries. Many of her customers obtain Bibles even when money is a problem.

"I am constantly challenged," she says, "by the fact that we have people who come here into the shop who have very low salaries. Sometimes they're as low as \$130 or \$150 [in U.S. dollars], yet they come in here to buy Bibles to give to other people."

By discounting prices as much as it can, the Book Shop always tries to ensure that no one goes away empty-handed.

Pastor Bayong Mesina of the Oman Christian Fellowship, comprised of Christian emigrants from the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India, is a steady Book Shop customer. "I thank God for the Bible Society," he says. "It has strongly supported our church in all its endeavors. Where would we be


without the Bible? We would be nothing and would have nothing to say to the people."

Bahrain

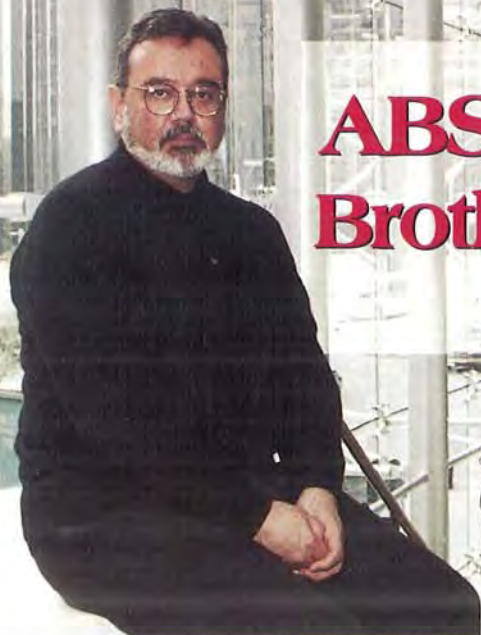
"It is very enjoyable," says Benevento Ferns, a volunteer at the Bahrain Bible Society Center, "to meet people from so many different denominations and nationalities, both new Christians and those seeking salvation. We help them all in here."

The Center, located inside the compound of the U.S. diplomatic mission, is a Mecca for the large contingent of foreign workers in this country—many of whom are Christians. Benevento himself emigrated from India two years ago with the promise of a well-paying electrician's job. When he lost that job several months ago, the young man began volunteering full-time at the Center.

Benevento notes that foreign workers often come to Bahrain as nominal or non-Christians, then begin searching for spiritual comfort when they're overwhelmed by homesickness and culture shock. For them, he says, the Bible Center provide a beacon of hope. "I like giving my time to the Lord," he says. "And I am pleased to be helping the many different people who come in here."

Please pray that desire for the Word of God will continue to grow throughout the Persian Gulf region, and for the safety and success of all those involved in the sharing of the Scriptures. 

ABS Celebrates Brother Donald's Dream



Brother Donald sits at the top of the nearly completed stair entry to The Gallery at the American Bible Society, which looks out on Broadway, New York City. *Inset: Dome of the Holy Sepulcher, interior view.*

The man in black stood at a distance, quietly observing the final preparations on ABS's new second floor Gallery. In a few weeks the large elegant space, brought to life by the delicate glow of track lights, would host an historic collection of paintings, artifacts and photos entitled *The Jerusalem Project: The Dome Restoration in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher*. Busy tradesmen hardly took notice of this quiet man, whose singular, Solomon-like efforts and vision gave birth to the dome restoration project, a feat once considered an impossible dream.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built on the spot widely thought to be

Christ's place of crucifixion, stirs peaceful reverence in many pilgrim hearts. But the history of this 1,700-year-old sacred shrine has been anything but peaceful.

Jointly maintained by the Armenian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic rites, the ancient church has been fought and squabbled over since Emperor Constantine built it in the fourth century. It is often cited as a prominent cause of the Crimean War of 1853-56.

Much infighting has occurred among the three Christian communities charged with care and maintenance of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, over matters as picayune as the placement of chairs and who

dusts which candles.

After more than 100 years of decay, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was partially restored during the 1970s. But the three custodial churches couldn't agree on what the interior of the dome should look like.

Then a breakthrough came in 1994. A young Vatican emissary to Jerusalem, Brother Donald Mansir, brought the feuding parties to the table for the first time, brokering an agreement for the joint restoration of the interior dome.

"What helped immensely," said Brother Donald, "was the fact that the three custodians—Diodoros I, of the Greek Orthodox rite, Torkom Manoogian of the Armenian Orthodox church, and Father Giuseppe Nazzaro of the Roman Catholics—all knew and trusted me."

The clerics held a series of meetings to negotiate a set of strict guidelines for the renovation, and select a designer, eventually settling on artist Ara Normart. Normart's final design, embodying elements common to all three communities, was informally approved by the three church leaders in August 1994.

Several days later, after nearly twenty years of delay and disagreement, the church fathers returned to the table to sign the formal agreement allowing work to begin. But then an unexpected dispute once again threatened the project.

"The Greek Orthodox Patriarch,"


Brother Donald recalled, "said he couldn't sign. He was getting pressure from some governments that felt if he signed he'd be giving away some rights and privileges with respect to the Holy Sepulcher."

The clerics scrambled to re-examine the contract, and made painstakingly certain that no rights would be lost. The signing went ahead.

The renovated dome, with golden rays arching toward the heavens, was unveiled in January 1997. It represented a landmark of cooperation between the custodial churches.

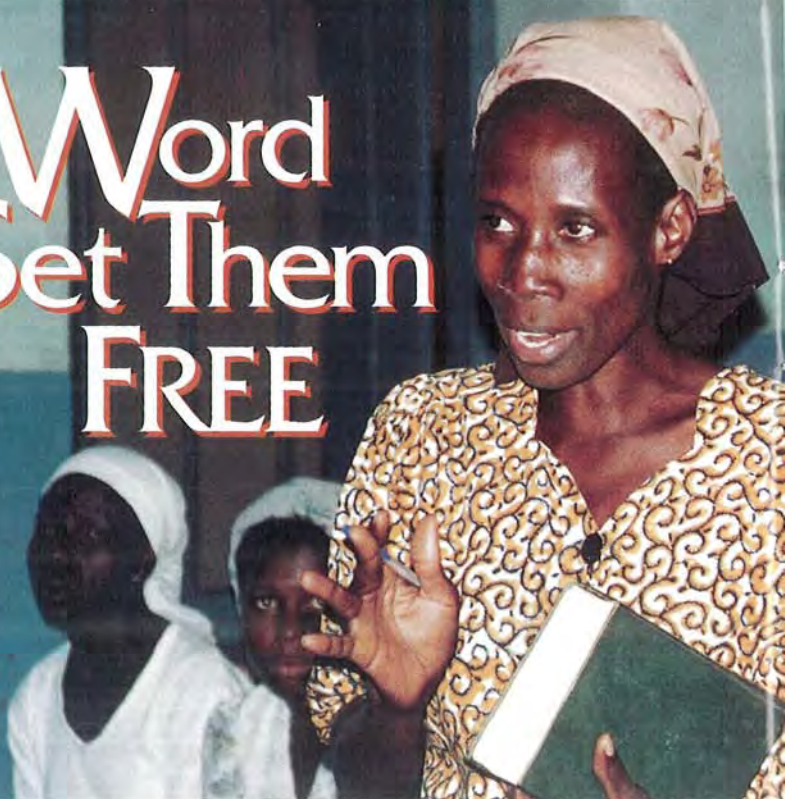
"I'm very optimistic about what the dome restoration portends," Brother Donald said. "I believe this project has opened up new doors of opportunity for the three communities to work more closely in concert with one another, which can mean a more harmonious future for the Church of the Holy Sepulcher."

Ed. Note: *The Jerusalem Project: The Dome Restoration in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher*, which runs from May 7 through July 2, 1998, commemorates the opening of the new ABS Gallery. The second exhibition, entitled, *The American Bible Society: A History*, examines the Bible Society's rich tradition of Scripture research, translation and distribution, and runs from July 31 through October 10, 1998.

For information on this and other upcoming Gallery events, contact Dr. Ena Heller, Director of the Gallery at the American Bible Society, at (212) 408-1236. 

The Word Set Them FREE

The Women of Ghana



They were young, poorly educated and vulnerable—chattel in a centuries-old system that forced daughters into slavery to pay off family debts. Their masters were middle-aged village priests of juju, or fetish worship.

Under an archaic Ghanaian law, the girls worked long hours doing hard manual labor—and were often forced to marry their captors and bear their children. Abuse and exhaustion left them with little self-esteem and the feeling that life was hopeless.

Then the Word came that set them free.

Teaching teams from the Bible

Society of Ghana reached the Ewe-speaking villages. They organized reading workshops for the mostly illiterate women. They gave out powerful teaching tools—New Reader Scriptures—which unlocked God's words of hope and love.

The message they read transformed these young women by telling them how precious they were to God. Emboldened with new confidence and self-worth, they began to question the ancient system that held them in bondage. Many made Christ the master of their lives and escaped their earthly masters.


Angered and threatened, the fetish priests sought to retaliate with spells



have read about Jesus!” one young woman triumphantly proclaimed on television. “Now we are Christians and we are leaving this way of life for a new way of life.”

The priests, on the other hand, grumbled to reporters that their way of life was in jeopardy. The slave system became a hot issue debated, first on the streets, and then in the halls of the Ghanaian Parliament.

The abolitionists won the day. A new law was enacted in 1996 forbidding the sale or trade of human beings. The girls who had remained in bondage were freed to be reunited with their families.

“This story brings tears to my eyes,” said Dr. Mae Alice Reggy, the United Bible Societies New Reader and Audio Program consultant to Africa. “I can see that through New Reader Scriptures, not only individuals are changing—which is important in itself—but whole communities and maybe whole nations are changing through the impact and the power of God’s Word.” 

and other witchcraft. But their occult weapons backfired. The liberated girls and their Bible Society rescuers went unscathed while several priests suffered mishap, illness and even death.

Word spread like warm sunshine. As more Bible Society teams arrived, droves of indentured young women signed up for the reading classes.

Ghanian news media, alerted to the unfolding phenomenon, descended on the Ewe villages to interview ex-slaves and fetish priests.

“We have learned to read and we

YOU JUST CAN'T SAY "AVERAGE"

Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.

| Thessalonians 5.18 (CEV)

"Betty" lived in a small town in the Northeast. Her small income barely covered the expenses for the retirement home where

she lived. To make matters worse, she had to pay a large property tax on a farm she was now too old to manage. Despite these financial hardships, Betty's main concern was her two grandchildren. She dearly loved them and wanted to provide a secure legacy for them.

An American Bible Society Regional Representative for Development, Arthur C. Borden, visited with Betty and she described her predicament to him. Borden then visited the old farm. It had once been a highly productive property and he saw that it could again be a valuable asset. He advised Betty to place the property in an American Bible Society Charitable Remainder Unitrust, and to name herself and her grandchildren as beneficiaries.



Working with a good realtor who sold the property as three separate units, Borden was able to help Betty create a trust. Payments from this trust doubled Betty's income. Trust payments will continue to provide income for her grandchildren for 20 years after her death. At the completion of the trust, the investment from Betty's farm will help the American

Bible Society share God's Word.

Ever since Borden returned to the American Bible Society as a Regional Representative for Development in 1991 he has been encouraged and challenged by opportunities to help people like Betty realize their fondest desires. And his en-

thusiasm for the Bible Society remains undiminished. "I'm supposed to be retired," he says, "but I don't have time to do anything but work."

One month after graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary, Borden pastored a union (interconfessional) church in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela. Here, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 began to take on new, personal meaning for him. In that tropical city, ministering to English-speaking expatriates in-


volved with the oil industry, Borden quickly learned that following God's call was not always easy.

Borden's rich and varied career includes many contributions to the Bible cause. As Executive Secretary for the Bible Agency in Venezuela, he was instrumental in developing the organizational structure of what has since become the Bible Society of Venezuela. In 1967, Borden worked in six Central American countries, transforming one general agency into six independent national Bible Societies. This decentralization has proven to be more efficient at meeting Scripture needs for all of Central America.

In 1973, Borden accepted the post of Secretary for Church Relations at the American Bible Society, serving as a liaison between ABS and church denominations to help them meet their Scripture needs. In 1980, Borden took leave of the Bible Society to work on the Genesis Project, which produced the internationally renowned *Jesus Film*. From 1981 to 1990, Borden was President of the ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), which sets fiscal accountability standards for fundraising efforts by religious charitable organizations.

Asked to describe an average day for an ABS Rep, Borden replied, "You just can't say average. I could spend an entire day with one person. The next day I might visit eight people."

An ABS Rep handles some assignments by phone, offering valuable guidance to interested donors. Other contacts require long-distance travel. Arthur C. Borden travels from Maryland to Georgia—sharing news of world Bible work, offering planning advice, and encouraging people to help share the Good News with others.

Borden is one of eight American Bible Society Regional Representatives for Development. The goal of every ABS Rep is to provide you with the information and support you need to fulfill the personal and charitable objectives you have for your financial resources. You can call the ABS Rep in your area for assistance without cost or obligation. 

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MID-ATLANTIC

Arthur C. Borden
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VOLUNTEER

Barbara's Bible

Officially, it's called the *Promise Edition New Testament*. But most people in the Hidden Golf retirement community in Winter Haven, Florida, just call it "Barbara's Bible."

Barbara, in this case, is ABS Volunteer Barbara Grow. She and her husband Clyde (also an ABS volunteer) have made the *Promise Edition* a popular book in their quiet, tree-lined community nestled amid sprawling orange groves and picturesque lakes 40 miles south of Orlando.

"When I first heard about the *Promise Edition* several months back," Barbara explains, "I went to order some, but I discovered they only came in sets of six. I said to myself, 'I can't even think of three people to give them to.'"

The petite, soft-spoken woman called up her daughter, Sandy Bishop, who directs the American Bible Society Scripture Grants Program in New York City. "I told Sandy my concern, and she just said, 'Go ahead and order the case. You'll find takers.'"

As a retired remedial reading teacher, Barbara knew that the easy-to-read *Promise Edition*—written in



Barbara and Clyde Grow examine

the *Contemporary English Version* and featuring a daily guide for reading through the New Testament in a year—could appeal to people who might otherwise never pick up a Bible.

Just to be safe, though, Barbara started with people she knew liked to read.

Ministries



a *Promise Edition New Testament*.

“The first woman I talked to,” Barbara recalls, “didn’t even go to church. But when I showed her the New Testament she wanted one.”

As Barbara showed the *Promise Edition* to more friends and acquaintances they, too, asked for copies. Meanwhile Clyde, an avid golfer,

shared about the New Testament with friends out on the golf course and in the clubhouse whenever possible.

Once, when Barbara was showing the *Promise Edition New Testament* to friends in the community center, several others in the room interrupted to ask if they could get a copy.

The “extra” Bibles Barbara feared being stuck with were gone in no time, with requests still coming in. Barbara ordered a second set. Then another. And another.

Before they knew it, the Grows had given out nearly 50 *Promise Edition New Testaments*.

“So many people have wanted these New Testaments. They love them,” Barbara says proudly. “The *Promise Edition* makes the Bible real and understandable. Many have told me, ‘Once I pick the *Promise Edition* up, I can’t put it down!’”

Originally from West Virginia, the Grows retired to Winter Haven in 1988. Six years ago, after their daughter Sandy persuaded them to attend an ABS Informational Conference, they became ABS volunteers. In addition to sharing the *Promise Edition New Testament*, Barbara holds a weekly women’s Bible study in her home, using the *ABS Good News Bible (Today’s English Version)*. And she is a pen-pal to several inmates at a local women’s correctional facility, sending them ABS Scripture, bookmarks and Selections along with her letters of encouragement.

The Grow's also regularly place Scripture displays filled with Portions and Bookmarks in doctors' offices, hospitals and nursing homes. "Because they're so used to being handed things on the street, people will read those Bookmarks before they'll read a tract," Barbara says.

About being an ABS volunteer Clyde Grow says, "It's a great way to witness for the Lord." Barbara adds, "It's rewarding to realize you're en-

couraging people to read and understand God's Word."

Throughout the U.S., people like Clyde and Barbara Grow are sharing the Good News as volunteers for the American Bible Society. If you're interested in volunteering, we want to hear from you! Write to:

American Bible Society
Volunteer Ministries
1865 Broadway
New York, NY 10023-7505

VOLUNTEER *Award of Merit*

Thelma McPherson

Thelma McPherson is an "itinerant" ABS Scripture Sharer. Since 1940 Thelma's ministry has taken her to Port Jervis, NY, Princeton, NJ, Saverna Park, MD, Alexandria, VA, and, finally, Truth or Consequences, NM, where she has lived since 1964.

Thelma attributes this long record of achievement to her love for sharing God's Word and her belief in the ABS mission. A Bible-A-Month member since the program began more than 30 years ago, Thelma includes her six children, 13 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren in her distribution efforts. That effort has paid off since her family has become avid supporters of the *Contemporary English Version*.



Thelma now heartily supports the Year of the Bible program, in which an entire community pledges to read the entire Bible within a year. This year she successfully promoted the program in Truth or Consequences, where the town commissioners signed a proclamation naming 1998 the Year

of the Bible. This generated some controversy, but most feedback has been positive and Thelma reports that "the program is gaining steady momentum."

Congratulations, Thelma, on receiving the Volunteer Award of Merit. And thank you for your unwavering faith and commitment to the Bible cause. 🇺🇸

Scout's Honor

Continued from page 7

the entire community as well. Thank you very much for your hard work."

Afterward, a TV reporter asked Ryan how it felt to be praised for such an outstanding good deed. Ryan

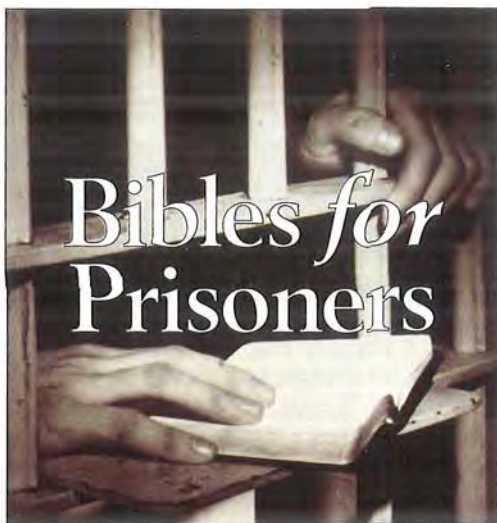
flashed a satisfied smile and replied, "I just give glory where it belongs—to the Lord." The hope of Easter had already arrived for 2,300 Florida inmates.

Ed. Note: Ryan Austin expects to earn the Eagle Scout in Fall 1998. 🇺🇸

The note, written on Florida Department of Corrections stationary, was simple yet moving. "Today," the prisoner wrote, "I saw a book mark with a red rose on it and the word LOVE. I read the scripture on the back of it and I began thinking of my past... I would like to become one of God's children."

Jail and prison chaplains' files are filled with testimonies of inmates whose lives were transformed by the Word of God. The need for Bibles in prisons is increasing as prison populations grow. Yet Florida and several other states have enacted legislation forbidding state funds to be used to purchase Bibles.

The onus is on organizations such as the American Bible Society, as well as individual Christians, to make up the difference. Last year, the ABS



Scripture Grants Program—through the help of supporters like you—shared more than 1,000,000 Bibles, New Testaments and Scripture Calendars with U.S. correctional institutions.

Those Scriptures are making an impact. The Grants Program receives more letters of thanks from prisoners, chaplains and corrections officials than it does from any other group. This letter from the senior chaplain at Martin Correctional Institution in Indiantown, FL, is typical:

"Thanks for all of the help you have been to us. The men here are always looking forward to be blessed by the materials that your ministry donates."

This year, the Grants Program will again provide in excess of a million Scriptures for prisoners. 🇺🇸

ABS Record Is Tops

NEW YORK — The American Bible Society *Record* was awarded “Best in Class Special Interest Magazine for 1997” by the Associated Church Press (ACP). The ACP, a professional organization of Christian, church, and para-church communicators, made the award at its annual convention held in April. The judges praised the *Record* for its “beautiful, engaging covers... A good, solid, bright journal that celebrates the work and worth of the American Bible Society.”

“This is a wonderful recognition,” said ABS Director of Communications Mike Maus, “of the hard work and creativity that have gone into the telling of the ABS story through the pages of this magazine.”

First published in 1818, the *ABS Record* is the second-oldest continuously published magazine in the U.S.

The Word in the Woods
NORTH CAROLINA — Nestled amid forested mountains and tranquil lakes, Kanuga—an Episcopal retreat center—has provided spiritual R&R to guests of all denominations for



David Singer, editor of the *Record* (left), and Mike Maus, ABS Director of Communications, display the “Best in Class” plaque awarded by the Associated Church Press.

nearly 90 years. Besides outdoor activities and comfortable lodging, the center goes a step further to encourage serenity: no TVs or telephones in the rooms.

However, you will find an ABS Good News Bible inside each nightstand.

“We host many Christian groups’ conventions and meetings here,” says Kanuga’s president, Albert Gooch. “We also host meetings for secular groups. But the atmosphere at the center is Christian, and we can’t help but feel that it rubs off on most folks.”

Lacking a TV or phone, Gooch adds, leads many guests to pick up the Good News Bibles—written in the *Today’s English Version* translation first published by ABS in 1976.

When Gooch became president of Kanuga, he began placing ABS Bibles in rooms at the main inn as well as in all the guest houses and cottages. He chose the Good News Bibles “because they’re easy to understand and folks like reading them. I even keep a copy in my desk.”

Recently, a grateful guest gave Gooch a donation with which he was able to provide 400 pew Bibles for Kanuga’s large interfaith chapel.

Block Party Bible

FLORIDA — When 120 Baptist college students took to the beaches and streets of Daytona Beach, FL, last April, they came carrying *Promise Edition (CEV)* New Testaments.

Their mission: reach out to the legions of other college students who had descended on the popular vacation spot to celebrate Spring Break.

Figures compiled by the North American Mission Board and Florida Baptist Convention—which jointly sponsored the project, called “Beach-Reach”—33 young men and women made professions of faith as a result of the outreach.

“If it’s that easy to reach out to someone while they’re trying to party,” said David Bernard, a volunteer from Florida State University, “then it should be much easier on our own campuses to talk to people.”

Besides giving out the New Test-


aments, provided through the ABS Scripture Grants Program, students passed out tracts and witnessed their faith to all who would listen.

Honoring Bible Teachers

NEW YORK — Building on its long tradition of supporting Christian education, the ABS will present a new Christian Education Award to students who have achieved excellence and creativity in teaching the Bible. The new award recognizes the critical role of Christian education within the academic community and the importance of teaching the Bible in congregational settings.

Twenty-six seminaries, Bible and denominational colleges and universities will participate, representing a broad array of faith traditions including many Protestant, Roman Catholic and non-denominational institutions.

ABS has long honored academic excellence in biblical or theological studies by awarding graduating seniors with its annual Scholarly Achievement Award.

The Christian Education Award is one facet of a new ABS initiative to partner with Christian educators and lay staff who are involved in Christian education at the congregational level. Award Recipients may teach Sunday school, catechetical classes, youth groups, summer camp, after school or adult programs. 

Volunteers with the Word

ARGENTINA — When searchers found them, the two frightened little girls were huddled together in a cardboard box, deep within a dark forest. They were brought to safety and given food, clothing and shelter, along with a very special gift: New Reader Scripture books to help them discover the Savior, Jesus Christ.

The girls, now doing well, are among thousands of poor and abandoned youngsters in Argentina who are being reached by a special Bible Society project called Volunteers With the Word. Armed with New Reader Scriptures and other Bible Society materials, volunteers seek out desperately hurting and sometimes abandoned boys and girls in rural areas and on mean city streets.



These homeless girls, found living in a box in an Argentine forest, were recently helped through the Bible Society's Volunteers With the Word project.

Often, Bible Society volunteers report, hungry children grab for the Scripture books with the same zeal as if they're grabbing for bread and sweets.

The aim of the program is not only to reach children, and help them learn to read, but to share the Word of God with their parents and tell them about the power of the gospel.

In 1997, Volunteers With the Word brought physical and spiritual comfort to 13,000 people.

Hope in the Hospital

ARMENIA — The old man lay under the covers, his wife at his bedside, waiting to go to surgery. The elderly woman took the black-covered book from the visiting bishop and gently put it in her husband's hand. Tears filled the old man's eyes as he gripped his new Armenian Bible and looked up at Bishop Aykazian. "Thank you, thank you. And may God bless you," he whispered.

Viken Aykazian, bishop of the Church of Armenia, has become something of a fixture at the hospital in Yerevan during the past year. Working in his homeland since last October as director of the church's relief organization, Bishop Aykazian—whose permanent home is in the Netherlands—says his hospital

ministry was providential.

"I was visiting a friend there one day," he recalls, "when some other patients asked me, 'Could you please come and visit us as well, and bring the Word of God and pray for us?'"

The bishop started visiting the hospital, with Bibles under each arm, on every free Saturday. He stops in at every room, each containing three or four beds, and gives patients encouragement—and the Bible if they ask for it. Often patients have Bibles from Bishop Aykazian's earlier visits at their bedsides. "Do you read your Bibles?" he always asks them. The reply is consistently, "Yes!"

One recent Saturday, the bishop ran out of Bibles before reaching the last room. "Dear father," a middle-aged woman patient asked, "do you not have a Bible for me as well?"

The bishop promised to bring one when he visited the following Saturday.

For Bishop Aykazian his hospital visits are a wonderful way of sharing the love of the Lord with others. "I am hoping," he says, "to recruit some volunteers to help me with this task which is of such great importance."

Never Too Old

MAURITIUS — Lyse Merle may be 82 years old, but the energy with which she volunteers her time to the Lord's work would impress even someone half her age.



Lyse Merle, 82, believes that New Reader Scriptures are vital tools for preparing children to walk in faith.

For the past 19 years Merle has devoted much of her spare time to working in the bookstore of St. Therese Roman Catholic Church in Curepipe, as well as helping to teach the children of her parish about their faith and the Bible.

When Merle paid a recent visit to the Bible Society bookshop in Port Louis, one of the staff members asked her the reason for her visit. "There are currently many children preparing for first communion," she said. "I have come to find Scriptures in various formats for them."

Merle was particularly interested in the Illustrated New Testament in French and the wide selection of New Reader Scriptures and Scripture Coloring Books. "The younger children like these very much," she said as she scooped up an armful of New Reader Scriptures. 🇲🇺

WHO'S WHO IN ABS *Among Trustees*

DR. OSCAR I. ROMO

Thirty years ago," observes Dr. Oscar I. Romo, "you could walk down the street most anywhere and hear only English spoken. Today, of course, the United States is much more culturally diverse. Twenty-six major languages (more than 1,000,000 speakers) are spoken here. And there are more than 20,000 Hispanic evangelical churches in the U.S."

Helping ABS meet the Scripture needs of these language and culture groups in the U.S. is a mission Dr. Romo proudly helps fulfill as a member of the Scripture Resource Development and Translation Committee. "We are making great progress in this area," he says. "We've produced Scriptures in Navajo and other Native American languages. We offer a wide variety of Scriptures in Spanish and other languages. I'm excited to be part of this fantastic mission!"

A graduate of Austin Presbyterian Seminary (D.Min.) in Texas, Dr. Romo received his B.A. from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, and holds a Bachelor of Divinity from

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He has honorary doctoral degrees from four colleges and universities.

An ordained Baptist minister, Dr. Romo is Director Emeritus, Language Missions Board, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). He has served as chaplain, U.S. Army Reserve, Board of Directors of the Radio and Television Commission, SBC, a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and was instrumental in the publication of contextual language materials. He chaired



Dr. Oscar I. Romo

the Houston 85 Convocation, a gathering of 69 denominations on ethnic America. Currently he serves on the Executive Committee of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, the Board of the National Coalition on the American Family, and the Census AD 2000 Committee.

Oscar Romo and his wife, Merry, live in Tucker, Georgia, and attend Briarlake Baptist Church. Thank you, Dr. Romo, for your wonderful years of service to the ABS cause. 🇺🇸



Half the World Is Waiting!

More than 3 BILLION people have yet to own a Bible. Over one-half of the people in Russia do not have a Bible. The number of believers in China who have never had a Bible of their own is absolutely staggering—and growing every day. And the demand in Africa is *double what we have been able to meet.*

For as little as \$4 a month, you can extend your reach to these nations by providing desperately needed Bibles to the other half of the world.

As a member of the Bible-a-Month Club, you will share the precious gift of God's Word with people in every nation who long to read the Scriptures in their own languages. Each month you'll receive an exciting

update, packed with stories and testimonies of the men, women, and children who receive the Bibles you provide.

Join the Bible-a-Month Club today! Simply fill out the coupon below. Or call toll free 1-800-32-BIBLE (1-800-322-4253) for more information.

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New York, NY 10023-7505

620600RO

for the **RECORD** LOOKING BACK



100 Years Ago:

Words of Comfort for Cuban Refugees

“There is no question in the minds of those who know the situation,” the June 1898 *Record* said concerning the plight of Cuban refugees in the U.S., “but that God intends that the cruelty which has driven these people to this Christian land shall be the means through which his kingdom shall be advanced.”

The article went on to describe the impact of the Bible in the refugees’ lives. “Many are willing, nay, eager, to hear and read the word of God. A man who listened one Sabbath lately to a simple exposition of a Sunday school lesson went at its close to the leader and said: ‘Why, we have never heard anything like that before! Will you not give us a Bible, that we may read it over again?’”

50 Years Ago:

To Russia With Love

The January 1948 *Record* noted the


completion of a new Russian Bible, the *Holy Synod Version*, by ABS. “Early in 1947,” the article said, “the plates were finished, and printing of the Bibles began. The first 25,000 of these Bibles came from the presses in September, and the Society

at last was ready for the day of great opportunity, never dreaming it would come so swiftly.”

On October 2nd, 1947, Metropolitan Gregory of Leningrad and Novgorod visited the American Bible Society headquarters in New York City. ABS Treasurer

Gilbert Darlington gave the Metropolitan samples of the new Bible and asked how many copies

would be needed in Russia.

“While the Metropolitan was loath to set a figure of the need, he smiled as he leafed through the beautiful new volumes and said that his people would ask for large numbers when they saw what the books were like, remarking that one’s appetite became greater when he saw the meal!” 



During a visit to Bible House, Metropolitan Gregory of Russia examined a New Russian Bible published by ABS.

Bible

SUNDAY '98

Awakening Hearts of Faith



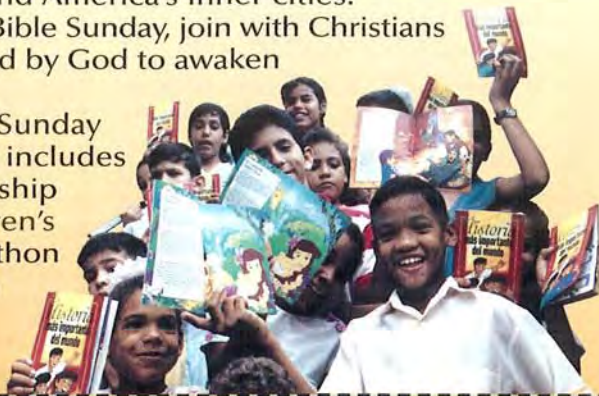
GOD IS AT WORK in the hearts of millions of people in China, Cuba and America's neediest urban communities. Spiritual renewal is an exciting reality!

But men, women, and children urgently need the Scriptures to fully understand the gospel and God's work in their lives.

Your congregation can meet their need. By participating in Bible Sunday you will help provide God's Word to people in their own language in China, Cuba and America's inner cities.

On November 22, 1998, Bible Sunday, join with Christians across the nation to be used by God to awaken hearts of faith!

To receive a FREE Bible Sunday information packet (which includes a Bible bank, a poster, worship and sermon helps, a children's activity, Bible reading marathon fact sheet, and much, much more), clip and mail the coupon below today.



YES! Our congregation will participate in Bible Sunday '98.

Please send me FREE information for:

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DAILY BIBLE

READING GUIDE

Knowledge, comfort, strength, and understanding come from the regular, disciplined reading of the Bible. So here's something to help you on your journey. 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.

July 1998

TAKE HOLD OF THE HOPE AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN FAITH

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Hebrews 11.1-40 | 15 1 Timothy 2.1-15 | |
| 2 Hebrews 12.1-29 | 16 1 Timothy 3.1-16 | |
| 3 2 & 3 John | 17 1 Timothy 4.1-16 | |
| 4 Philemon | 18 1 Timothy 5.1 — 6.2a | |
| SUNDAY | | |
| 5 Colossians 4.2-18 | SUNDAY | |
| 6 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 | 19 1 Timothy 6.2b-21 | |
| 7 1 Thessalonians 2.1-16 | 20 2 Timothy 1.1-18 | |
| 8 1 Thessalonians 2.17 — 3.13 | 21 2 Timothy 2.1-26 | |
| 9 1 Thessalonians 4.1-18 | 22 2 Timothy 3.1 — 4.8 | |
| 10 1 Thessalonians 5.1-28 | 23 2 Timothy 4.9-22 | |
| 11 2 Thessalonians 1.1-12 | 24 Joshua 23.1-16 | |
| SUNDAY | | |
| 12 2 Thessalonians 2.1-17 | 25 Joshua 24.1-28 | |
| 13 2 Thessalonians 3.1-18 | SUNDAY | |
| 14 1 Timothy 1.1-20 | 26 2 Samuel 22.1 — 23.7 | |
| | 27 Haggai 1.1-15 | |
| | 28 Haggai 2.1-23 | |
| | 29 Acts 27.1-44 | |
| | 30 Acts 28.1-31 | |
| | 31 Jude | |

August 1998

TAKE HOLD OF THE HOPE AND BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 2 Corinthians 1.1-11 | 16 Philippians 2.12-30 | |
| SUNDAY | | |
| 2 2 Corinthians 4.1-15 | 17 Philippians 3.1-11 | |
| 3 2 Corinthians 4.16 — 5.10 | 18 Philippians 3.12 — 4.1 | |
| 4 2 Corinthians 5.11 — 6.13 | 19 Philippians 4.2-23 | |
| 5 Ephesians 1.1-23 | 20 Titus 1.1-16 | |
| 6 Ephesians 2.1-22 | 21 Titus 2.1-15 | |
| 7 Ephesians 3.1-21 | 22 Titus 3.1-15 | |
| 8 Ephesians 4.1-16 | SUNDAY | |
| SUNDAY | | |
| 9 Ephesians 4.17 — 5.2 | 23 Romans 6.1-23 | |
| 10 Ephesians 5.3-33 | 24 Romans 12.1-21 | |
| 11 Ephesians 6.1-9 | 25 Romans 14.1-23 | |
| 12 Ephesians 6.10-24 | 26 Romans 15.1-13 | |
| 13 Philippians 1.1-11 | 27 Romans 15.14-33 | |
| 14 Philippians 1.12-30 | 28 1 Corinthians 1.1-17 | |
| 15 Philippians 2.1-11 | 29 1 Corinthians 4.1-21 | |
| SUNDAY | | |
| | 30 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 | |
| | 31 1 Corinthians 12.12-31 | |

Please Pray

During June and July for

DOMESTIC

The Handicapped—For many physically and mentally challenged people, getting dressed or reading a book can be difficult. Pray that these brothers and sisters will find the joy of the gospel through ABS Scriptures in audio, Braille and large-print formats.

Recent Immigrants—Coming to a new country can be both exciting and frightening. For many newcomers, being able to obtain the Holy Scriptures in their own languages is very important. Pray for the continued success of the American Bible Society in providing the Scriptures in more than 60 languages.

Newlyweds—A marriage rooted in the love of Jesus Christ has greater staying power. Pray for newly-married couples to make the Savior the centerpiece of sharing their lives together.

Armed Forces Members—Pray that God will protect the young men and women who serve our country, and that they will find the encouragement and hope they need in the pages of the Bible.


Burned Churches—Many churches are still rebuilding after last year's rash of church burnings throughout the U.S. Pray that each of these churches will reopen, and pray also for greater love and understanding between all people.

INTERNATIONAL

Chile—Pray that the new Bible Society warehouse and bindery will enable greater numbers of Scriptures to reach people from all walks of life. Pray also that the newly-released Mapudungun New Testament and the revised Reina Valera Bible will fill many hearts with the love of the Lord.

Mauritania—Pray for the continued growth of the gospel message in this African nation where public expressions of religion are forbidden. Pray also that the Lord will sustain, protect and encourage all Christians there.

Turkey—Bookfairs are a popular event in this country, and the Bible Society's booth is a popular attraction. Pray that the many thousands of people who receive the Scriptures at these bookfairs gain a deeper understanding of the biblical message.

Somalia—Earlier this year, this nation was torn apart by fighting and social unrest. The dangers of travel are so great that the efforts of Bible Society workers were hampered in trying to reach many parts of the country. Pray that the fragile peace will last and that the Bible Society will be able to bring the Good News into even the most remote regions. 

In Memory

Pete Addleman

Given by: Maxine & Wilbur R. Gradin

Edward L. Amiss

Given by: Mr. Harry W. Amiss

**My Husband, and Son,
Henry & Gerald Arps**

Given by: Frieda L. Arps

**My Husband, Hubert W.
Austin and My Parents,
Hugh & Annette Miller**

Given by: Ms. Elsie Jean Austin

Mr. Case Baas

Given by: Mr. William A. Bonner

**Our Mothers, Dessa Barrett
and Effie Whited**

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Luie P. Whited

Esther Bartlett

Given by: Christ Presbyterian Church

**Our Father,
Raymond Bartels**

Given by: Alice E. Bartels & Children

William L. Becker

Given by: Mrs. Martha L. Becker

Mrs. Helen C. Begaye

Given by: Mr. Paul A. Steiner

My Parents,

Rev. Olaf & Thilda Berge
Given by: Agnes B. Smith

Jay Franklin Bidwell

Given by: Sr. Roberto Bidwell Marroquin

My Parents, Mr. & Mrs.

Louis G. Bischoff
Given by: Mrs. Helen B. Dement

Grace French Blanchard

Given by: Helen & Lee Gilliatt

**My Mother,
Lillian R. Boise**

Given by: Miss Audrey L. Boise

Herbert Brasher, Sr.

Given by: Mrs. G. W. McCraw

**My Parents,
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Butler**

Given by: Miss Muriel E. Butler

My Wife, Velna Carl

Given by: Mr. Harold L. Carl

**Selma Carpenter, Bill &
Freeda Krueger and Irving
Krueger**

Given by: Mrs. Marjorie Westlake

**P. A. Caswell, Emilia Ida
Nelson, Edythe, Florence,
Edna, Lillian, Herbert &
Melvin Nelson, Michael
Larkes**

Given by: Mrs. M. Nelson Caswell

Esther Christensen

Given by: Mr. Marvin Scherbenske

**My Husband,
R. L. Cunningham**

Given by: Mrs. Gwendolyn N. Cunningham

**My Grandmother,
Mrs. Judith E. Dahlby**

Given by: Dr. Jennifer Wilson

Mrs. Clauson Davis

Given by: Mrs. Barbara Smith

**My Husband,
The Rev. W. Ellis Davis**

Given by: Mrs. Frona Davis

**Our Son,
Calvin Charles Diederich**

Given by: Calvin & Carol Marie Diederich

Clifford Donoho

Given by: First United Methodist Church

Gladys Eby

Given by: Mrs. Raymond Eby

Tillie Edwards

Given by: Ms. Emma Dahlem

Helen M. Fadenrecht

Given by: Mr. Curtis B. Akenson

**Our Mother,
Helen M. Fadenrecht**

Given by: Dr. & Mrs. Paton Lewis

**My Mother & Father,
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Falske**

Given by: The Estate of Edward & Roselyn Falske

Charles Walter Fields

Given by: Mrs. Mabel J. Fields

Nancy Gentry

Given by: Mrs. A. V. Hughes

Thomas, Bobby & Joanne

Given by: Vera M. Gilbert

**George F. & Elaine A. Giles
and Lloyd E. Roberts**

Given by: Mr. Craig R. Giles

Rollin Gish, II

Given by: Miss Alice Buhse

Bess Goodsite

Given by: The Hill Family

Inez Gorsuch

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Harold van den Berg & Family

Dr. James Marvin Gregory

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Donald Myers, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Canaan, The Rev. & Mrs. Charles Copeland and Mr. & Mrs. Grafton Myers

Mary Helen P. Griffiths

Given by: Zosia Edwards Stege

William B. Hammond

Given by: Ms. Virginia R. Hammond

**My Mother,
Elizabeth M. Hass**

Given by: Mrs. Faith Wilkes

Ernest Hatter

Given by: Art & Aileen Henderson

Lois Healey

Given by: Mrs. Frona Davis

The Rev. P. A. Helms, Jr.
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Helms & Family**My Husband,
Frank Milton Hess**

Given by: Mrs. Edna M. Hess

John C. Horne

Given by: Peter & Dianne Horne

Virginia Humphrey

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. William R. Cramer

Ray Pruitt Johnson

Given by: Ms. Jacqueline Kinsman

My Wife, Verna Johnson

Given by: Mr. Francis E. Johnson, Sr.

Mrs. Irma Kleszics

Given by: Ms. Joan Kleszics

Gerard Koshkarian

Given by: Vaughn & Jean Avakian

**My Parents,
Ione & John Laudenberg**

Given by: Mrs. Ione Ripley

Joseph (Bernie) Leshay

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Milton B. Jensen



There is no finer way to memorialize a loved one than to help ensure that millions of copies of God's living Word will be made available to people who do not yet know the Lord.

Johnie Lamar Lewis

Given by: Mrs. Elisabeth F. Lewis

Our Parents,

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lindley

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Roger V. LeClerc

Mary & Dave Lindsey

Given by: Miss Jean Lindsey

My Sister,

Lyla Frances Linebach

Given by: Betty Linebach Henry

Sylvia Lombardo

Given by: Gloria & Mike Croft

My Brother,

Marcos E. Lopez

Given by: Mr. Eric D. Lopez

Shirley Lovell

Given by: Mrs. G. Maxine Smith

My Wife,

Orva Massanari

Given by: Dr. Walter Massanari

George L. McClure

Given by: Mr. Russell D. Shuffield

My Husband,

Virgil O. McMillan

Given by: Mrs. Virgil O. McMillan

Lucile & Omer Meckley

Given by: Mrs. Susan E. Shifflett

Maxine Meineke

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd S. Peak

Pam Membry

Given by: Rev. Bernard L. Danner

The Rev. Ammon L. Merkey

Given by: Mrs. Gladys V. Merkey

My Aunt, Alice Miller

Given by: Mr. Mitchell Spann

My Parents, The Rev. John

& Martha Moe and

My Brother, The Rev. David

L. Moe

Given by: Mrs. Trudy Elizabeth Moe Snider

Pauline Moore

Given by: Mrs. Freda H. Fox

Jim L. Morris

Given by: Mr. William A. Bonner

Sr. Daniel Marroquin

Pascal

Given by: Mr. Roberto B. Marroquin

James G. Patton, Mr. &

Mrs. Charles O. Whitehead,

Sr., Mr. Charles O.

Whitehead, Jr. and Mr.

Robert E. Whitehead, Jr.

Given by: Mrs. James G. Patton

Richard Pierce

Given by: Mrs. Cynthia L. Fish

Paul Plyler

Given by: Miss Florence B. Plyler

My Wife,

Louise F. Pulis

Given by: Mr. John L. Pulis

Violet Rees

Given by: Martha Fleck

My Husband, John Riwitis

Given by: Mrs. Martha Riwitis

The Rev. Charles A. E.

Saufley

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Good

Lillie F. Schaar

Given by: The Rev. & Mrs. Howard H. Schaar

Cathy Schwier

Given by: Mrs. Linda Rogers & Mrs. K. Zimmerman

Mildred Singer

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Willard McLeod

The Rev. Walter Smith

Given by: Mrs. Frona Davis

My Husband, Dr. Robert S.

Sparkman, My Parents, Mr.

& Mrs. W. F. Bassett, My Sis-

ter, Hattie Ford Bassett, My

Sister & Brother-in-law, Dr.

& Mrs. Ramsay H. Moore

Given by: Mrs. Willie Ford Bassett Sparkman

Anne Stadler

Given by: Miss Fannelle Shepperson

Ryan DeWitt Staubes

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Chris B. Staubes & Family

My Husband,

H. H. Stauffacher

Given by: Mrs. Irma Stauffacher

My Parents,

Mary (Polly) MG Storrs

& Charles L. Storrs

Given by: Mrs. Julia Strode

Marian H. Sullivan

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Guy Tanner

Ted Suznevich

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Kobesak

My Father, Dr. W. N. Tefft

Given by: Diane Tarr

Elizabeth R. Tice

Given by: Mrs. Betsy Sattazahn

My Father, The Rev.

Roland I. Van Hooser

Given by: Judy Van Hooser

Albert Varriale

Given by: Calvary Chapel of Greenville

My Husband,

Ronald L. Vingoe

Given by: Mrs. Ronald Vingoe

My Mother,

Ethel Wenger

Given by: Mr. Paul S. Bollinger

Alma Lou White

Given by: Mrs. Bernice Compton

Matgosia Wilkon

Given by: Zosia Edwards Stege

Charles F. Wittman

Given by: Mrs. Alice Wittman & Children

My Husband,

Manning Woods

Given by: Mrs. Ella Mae Woods

My Husband,

George Yasenchak

Given by: Mrs. Helen A. Yasenchak

Memorials of \$100 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in the ABS Record. For further details about the memorial program, please write to: Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505.



ESCAPE WITH HIDDEN TREASURE

The steel door burst open and a guard stormed in. “Get up! Line up in the hall for inspection!” he bellowed. Vladimir Popkov quickly shoved the forbidden New Testament into his shirt pocket and went into the hallway.


Vladimir stood at the far end of the line. From the front he could see the stone-faced jailers thoroughly searching each inmate. It was the late 1970s, and such contraband searches occurred often in the notorious Soviet gulags.

With sweat beading on his forehead, Popkov felt the weight of the small Russian New Testament tug on his shirt. If the authorities found him with the book—which was provided by the American Bible Society in New York—it could mean a severe beating, further deprivations, or even an extended sentence.

The guards reached the man next to Popkov, searched him, then inexplicably turned and left. “It was as though they’d not seen me,” he later recalled. By a miracle, Vladimir and his New Testament were safe.

As the USSR began to unravel in the early 90s, Vladimir Popkov and thousands of other political prisoners were released. He emigrated to the U.S. and now lives in Washington State. A truck driver by trade, he periodically returns to his Russian homeland where he is now able to freely preach and share the Good News.

Vladimir Popkov is grateful to ABS for providing him with the Word of God during those long, dark years. He is also grateful for the help Bible-A-Month club members have given over the years.

Your June gift to the Bible-A-Month Club will enable more Bibles, Illustrated Bibles, New Testaments and Portions to be shared throughout this vast nation. And in July, your gift will be used to share the gospel message with men, women and children in the U.S. Please help to continue spreading the gospel message by giving today. 

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| | 55 | | 6.7% |
| | 60 | | 7.0% |
| | 65 | | 7.3% |
| | 70 | | 7.8% |
| | 71 | | 7.9% |
| | 72 | | 8.0% |
| | 73 | | 8.2% |
| | 74 | | 8.3% |
| | 75 | | 8.5% |
| | 76 | | 8.7% |
| | 77 | | 8.9% |
| | 78 | | 9.1% |
| | 79 | | 9.4% |
| | 80 | | 9.6% |
| | 81 | | 9.9% |
| | 82 | | 10.1% |
| | 83 | | 10.4% |
| | 84 | | 10.6% |
| | 85 | | 10.9% |
| | 86 | | 11.1% |
| | 87 | | 11.4% |
| | 88 | | 11.6% |
| | 89 | | 11.8% |
| | 90 and older | | 12.0% |



What are the benefits of an annuity? For your irrevocable gift of \$1,000 or more you receive partially tax-free payments for your lifetime, an immediate charitable tax deduction, and the satisfaction of helping to share God's Word with others.

To get your personalized annuity illustration, please fill out and return this form or call us toll-free at 1-800-820-6227. Rates for two-life annuities are lower than those for single-life annuities. Illustrations will be based on a quarterly payment schedule unless otherwise specified.

- Please send me more information on ABS Annuities.*
- Please send me a personalized ABS Gift Annuity illustration.*

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of illustration: \$ _____ Your birthday (required) _____

For two-life annuity only:

Second beneficiary's name _____

Second beneficiary's birthday (required for two-life annuity) _____

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