

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

August | September 1998



STAYING FOCUSED

ANDY WEST SEES CLEARLY WITH HIS HEART

Time for What Will Endure

"If you keep on obeying what I have said... you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

(John 8.31,32 CEV)

Since opening in 1988, the publishing company has shipped out 18 million inexpensive Bibles, an astonishing turn in a country that only a few decades ago tried to stamp out religion for good... The Bibles are quickly bought and eagerly used." So reads a front page story in *The New York Times* (June 17) about the state of the church in China, referencing the Amity Press which you help support through your gifts to ABS. The story, which goes on to fill all of page 10, tells how the distribution of God's Word is having a miraculous impact throughout China—how Bibles are such a precious item to a people who have known persecution because of their faith.

Our own cover story is about an eight-year-old boy who also knows hardship and draws great comfort from God's Word. For Andy West, there is no more important pursuit than to know of God's love through knowing the Scriptures. Even though he is only able to read for short periods, and even then with tremendous difficulty, Andy has memorized large portions of the Bible, including much of the book of Matthew. He commits much time and energy to listening to the Good News. Now, through the generosity of ABS supporters, Andy looks forward to a new freedom for learning God's Word—flying across the pages of a new Braille Bible with his fingers.



Andy also experiences God's love through a loving mother and a supportive Christian community. French theologian Jacques Ellul has called the Word "the essential relationship." Our contemporary lifestyles often allow too little time for relationships. We get caught up in entertaining and being entertained, in producing and consuming. But the Scriptures tell us that all of this has the permanence of mist. Ours is a faith of relationships, and ultimately, the essential relationship.

God reaches out to us with his Word—and through the Word seeks a life-giving relationship with us. But like Andy, we must devote time to building this relationship. Only through the Scriptures can we know about those things that will endure. ■

Eugene B. Habecker

Publisher

Board of Trustees

Chairman

Sally Shoemaker Robinson

President

Eugene B. Habecker

Executive Vice President

Peter J. Bradley

Vice Presidents

Arthur Caccese

John Cruz

Patrick G. English

Maria I. Martinez

Editor

David Singer

Staff Writer

Jim Genovese

e-mail

absrecord@americanbible.org

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.

Published continually since 1818, the *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of the American Bible Society and the second oldest continuous publication in the United States. It is published six times per year, and is sent to anyone contributing \$4 or more each year to the Society. Postage is paid at New York, New York, and additional mailing offices. Other publications wishing to reproduce any of the articles contained herein are encouraged to do so. A credit line acknowledging the source of the material and a copy of the issue containing such material would be appreciated. (ISSN 0006-801)

RECORD

C O N T E N T S

August / September 1998 | Volume 143, Number 5



ON THE COVER: Andy strains to see his Bible story book on a magnifying viewer. Using a new Braille Bible given by ABS, Andy will be able to read to his heart's content.

F E A T U R E S

6 **Staying Focused**
Seeing clearly with his heart

9 **Reaching into Rural China**
Even the new translation is more accessible



12 **Would the People Come?**
Success at the 1998 Cairo Book Fair

14 **His Daughter's Prayer**
In their loss Arthur and Audrey Schirmer discovered that you can't out-give God



D E P A R T M E N T S

- 4** Profiles:
Spared to Serve
- 5** Volunteer Award of Merit:
Patrick Crawford
- 5** Getting to Know Our Trustees:
Stewardship That Touches Lives
- 15** Update:
National News
- 16** Update:
International News
- 17** Bible-a-Month Club:
Babushka's Gift Came Back
- 18** Quiet Time:
Daily Bible Reading and Prayer
- 19** In Memoriam:
Our Loved Ones Remembered

We encourage you to send your letters to:
Editor, *American Bible Society Record*, 1865
Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505.
Telephone: (212) 408-8710. Reach ABS on
the web at www.americanbible.org

Spared to Serve

Contributed by Paul A. Snider,

ABS Volunteer State Coordinator, Nashville, Tennessee

Wayne Bratcher crouched behind the dashboard as his car trembled in the whirlwind of noise and swirling dust. The roar of the approaching monster grew deafening.

Wayne peered up. His eyes widened in horror. It was nearly on top of him and he was mesmerized by its raw, awesome power.

Telephone poles snapped like twigs, their high-voltage transformers exploding in bright novas up and down the street. The monster ripped up stately old trees and carelessly tossed them aside. Chunks of houses, mangled cars, and other twisted debris danced inside the angry, churning winds.

There was no time to rescue Mary and their two young daughters from the house. He locked his sweating hands in a desperate prayer grip. "Lord," he cried out, "only you can protect us from this twister. Please let this be Your will!"

The car began an angry rocking as the tornado closed in. Wayne closed his eyes. "Please, Lord...please!"

Suddenly, the twister veered sharply to the right, sparing Wayne but heading straight for his house. It veered again, roared past his garage and down the street. Wayne bolted from his car and stared in disbelief. Most of the houses along the street were in ruins, but his house stood, unscathed. Mary and the kids were safe, and

Hope and Life Ministries, which the Bratchers operated out of their home, had been spared.

The devastation in East Nashville, Tenn., was catastrophic. The tornado had either flattened or damaged thousands of homes, businesses, schools and churches. Remarkably, there were few injuries and no deaths. Everywhere, dazed homeowners sifted through twisted rubble that only minutes earlier had been places of refuge and comfort.

Looking at the devastation around them, Wayne and Mary thanked God for sparing their home and ministry. Through Hope and Life, the Bratchers had ministered to inmates at local jails and prisons, sharing ABS Scriptures, studying the Bible, and counseling prisoners. They also refurbished discarded bicycles and gave them to the youth of East Nashville's inner city neighborhoods.

In prayerful gratitude, Wayne and Mary dedicated themselves to sharing spiritual strength and comfort with those who had lost everything. They contacted the American Bible Society, which granted a shipment of Scriptures for them to distribute. The grant included CEV Bibles and the booklet, *God Is Our Shelter and Strength*.

ABS Volunteer Patricia W. Rowe soon arrived to help. She and the Bratchers began passing out the Scriptures. "I'll read this!" "Thank you!" "God bless you!" were comments they heard again and again from grateful recipients.

American Bible Society

Volunteer Ministries

1865 Broadway

New York, NY 10023-7505



Wayne Bratcher stands beside a tree uprooted by the twister that spared him and his family.

VOLUNTEER AWARD OF MERIT

Wherever Patrick Crawford goes he sees wonderful Scripture-sharing opportunities—even while walking in the woods!

In 1971 Patrick joined Campers on Mission, a group that ministers the Word of God to others in campgrounds throughout the country. Campers on Mission sent 500 ABS Scripture Selections to each member every year to use in their personal ministries. But for Patrick it wasn't enough. He was constantly on the go, sharing the Word in campgrounds and backyard Bible Clubs, and in more traditional places such as nursing homes.



PATRICK CRAWFORD

"I discovered many ways of distributing these Scriptures," Patrick recalls, "and ordered more and more each year from Campers on Mission. When I couldn't get any more, I contacted ABS for a catalog. That's where I learned about the ABS Volunteer Program."

Patrick signed up and soon he had a second prolific outlet for sharing God's Word. He gave ABS Scriptures out in hospital waiting rooms, placed them in phone booths, mailed them with bill payments, included them in greeting cards to friends and family, and stuffed them in food baskets for the poor.

Patrick now shares about 6,500 ABS Scriptures each year. "I am constantly finding new ways to distribute them," he reports. "This is a very big part of my Christian life."

Patrick, you are also a big part of the ABS family. 📖

Stewardship That Touches Lives

Ask Edward H. Bragg, Jr. about the work of the American Bible Society and he'll speak with authority—23 years' worth, to be exact. An ABS Board member since 1975, Mr. Bragg serves on the Investments Committee. The Committee ensures the Society's wise and prudent stewardship of its donor gifts and resources in making God's Word available to people in the United States and around the world.

During his long tenure Mr. Bragg has witnessed many changes in ABS over the years, but never in its commitment to sharing the gospel. "Our broad, global distribution of the Word of God," he says, "is unparalleled by any other Scripture-sharing organization I know of."

Another area Mr. Bragg points to with pride is the high degree of efficiency with which ABS manages its resources. "We work hard at prudently using our resources to touch as many lives as possible with the Scriptures," he says. "And our success in this area is consistently confirmed by our independent financial consultants."

Edward Bragg is managing director of Scudder, Stevens & Clark, a New York City-based investment counseling firm where he has served since 1961.

Mr. Bragg holds an M.B.A. from Harvard University and a B.A. from Princeton University. He is a trustee of the Colonial Club of Princeton and also serves on the University's Schools Committee. Responsibilities on other boards include the Round Hill Association and the Independent College Fund of New York.

He and his wife, Margaret, live in Greenwich, Conn., where they attend Christ Episcopal Church.

ABS is grateful to Edward H. Bragg, Jr. for his long and faithful partnership and wise counsel. 📖



EDWARD H. BRAGG, JR.

STAYING

While contemporary culture assaults us with an incessant flood of media images, each clamoring for our attention, one eight-year-old boy stays focused on the Word. Andy West is largely shielded from this visual onslaught. He is legally blind.

Since he was two and a half years old, his mother Mona, who wanted to give her son the best help she could, has spent many hours reading Bible stories to Andy. With a trace of tears in her eyes, Mona confides, "I realized Andy was going to face many obstacles in his life—that he would need to have a very strong faith.

When his PawPaw (grandfather) passed away last year, he had a very difficult time. It was quite a while before he could even talk about it. Then I realized even more he would have to learn that once I was gone, he still wouldn't be alone—that God would always be there for him."

Mona wanted Andy to discover for himself what she had learned following his birth. Born on January 19, 1990, Andy was five months early, and weighed a mere 25 ounces. The doctors held no hope for his survival. Mona says, "Even then I felt that faith is not knowing what God can do but knowing what God will do. I had no doubt that Andy would come home."

Four months later, on May 23rd, he did.

Mona says that being the single parent of a child with special requirements has, at times, "been overwhelming—especially when my efforts to get Andy what he needs are blocked." But Mona depends on her Christian family at the First Baptist Church in Pitkin, Louisiana, a tight Christian community that's responsive to whatever she and Andy need.

For example, because Mona must work at a small restaurant and convenience store, every other weekend she depends on someone to bring Andy there after Sunday school and church. "Someone always does," she says. "And I can always find someone from the church to talk me through my problems."

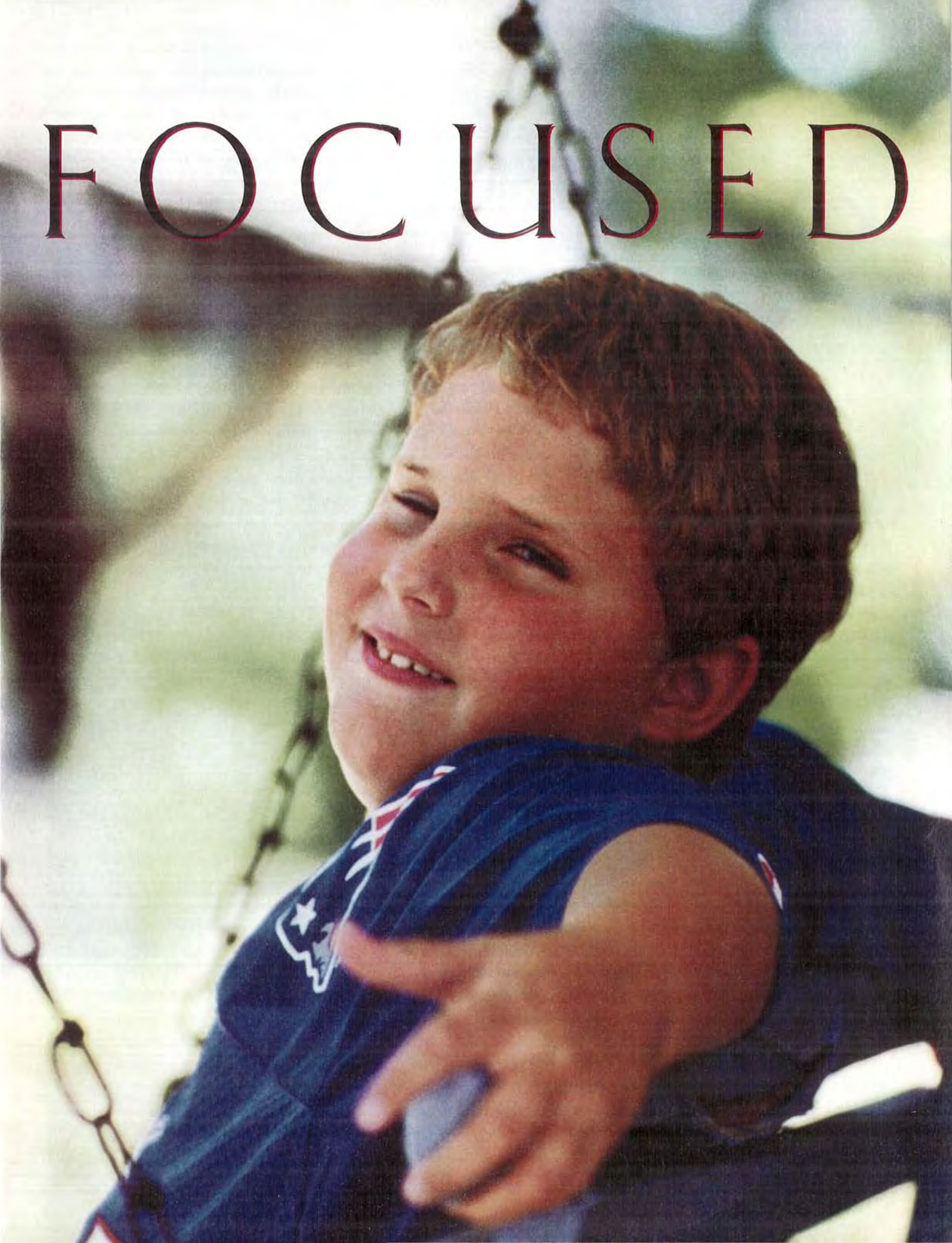
Still, Andy is a handful—especially when it comes to questions about the Bible. Mona recalls how it all began. One Sunday in church Andy was leaning against her in the pew, seemingly asleep. The pastor was telling how Jesus had gathered his



Many hours are shared on the bed together as Mona reads to Andy his favorite book. Soon Andy will be reading God's Word for himself thanks to a Braille Bible provided by ABS.

S t o r y a n d P h o t o g r a h y b y D a v i d S i n g e r

FOCUSED



disciples—how Andrew had run to tell his brother Simon about the Messiah. Andy popped up and said, “I don’t run and I don’t have a brother. So why did you name me Andrew?” Mona said, “He began asking me questions so I had to go to the source for answers. Andy has taught me a lot. I found I didn’t know as much about the Bible as I thought I did.”

Pastor Steven Laughlin says, “I can’t get past Andy. He sits in the same spot on the front pew every Sunday. He is the only one in church who asks me what I’m going to preach about the following week. I had to change my study schedule so I could have an answer for him.”

Andy wants to know the pastor’s sermon topic so that Mona can read the related Scriptures to him ahead of time.

All of his non-stop, high-level questions and general interest in the Bible got a long-time family friend and teacher at Andy’s school, Mrs. Randy Strother, wondering how to get Andy his own Braille Bible. She says, “I know what problems Andy has had getting the educational materials he needs at school in such a rural setting (Pitkin is 30 miles from even a sizable grocery store). If he had a Bible he could read for himself, it would lead him to a lot a self-discovery. If he had access to his own Bible he could answer a lot of his own questions.”

Early last fall, while driving home from a teachers’ meeting 30 miles away in Leesville, Randy stopped off at the Galilean Bookstore, the religious bookstore closest to Pitkin. Says Randy, “I just took a chance that they might know how I could go about getting a Braille Bible.”

From her experience in special education, Randy knew a Braille Bible would be big, and it would be expensive. The people at the store called their supplier, who then put Randy through to the American Bible Society. Yes, for

\$1,200, they had a Braille Bible available. Yes, it was available in a modern English translation. Yes, ABS had a grant program that could be used to defer some of the cost. Randy left her name and the address of the school. She was sure that whatever the final cost, people at Pitkin Baptist Church would find a way to buy Andy his own Braille Bible.

Nothing more happened until mid-December when Randy received an invoice from ABS for part of a Braille New Testament. It was marked “free.” Randy says, “I got really excited, but I didn’t get a Bible.”

Nearly three more months passed. Then one afternoon a school custodian came to Randy’s classroom carrying a big box. He said that there were four more just like it waiting in the school office. Randy says, “The school principal wanted to know, ‘How much is this going to cost?’” Rummaging through the boxes of bound Braille Bible volumes, Randy found a packing slip from the American Bible Society. Nothing more. An ABS grant had provided Andy with an entire Braille Bible.

Randy exudes, “I just know it was the hand of God at work because I just had that one conversation and then didn’t hear another thing until the day the Bible arrived.”

Mona drives Andy 60 miles for Braille lessons twice a week now. Though he is proficient in double-spaced Braille, the Bible is single-spaced. His love for God’s Word, though, is a real motivation for Andy. Randy says, “When other students are struggling, they see how hard Andy works and they are encouraged. He’s a real blessing to anyone who knows him.” She does express one reservation. “His questions really put you to the test lots of times. It may be a mistake giving him the full Bible to read.”

But Andy doesn’t always want to ask questions. He loves nothing more than to be quizzed about his knowledge of God’s Word. And more often than not, he will answer by quoting directly from Scripture. The amount of Scripture that this very articulate eight-year-old already has committed to memory is a small miracle.

He explains, “People just don’t realize what Jesus did for us—he died for me. I’m going to live for him.” ■



Roles are reversed as teacher Randy Strother takes a Bible lesson in Braille from Andy who is learning to read the new single-spaced Braille. The Braille volumes were provided when Randy made a phone call to ABS.

Rural China

Even the new translation is more accessible

Elderly Ton Lee, exhausted and covered with dust and mud from her four-day ride to Hohnot in Inner Mongolia, slid from her horse when she spotted the minister. Feeling pain with each step, she limped toward him, knelt down and grabbed his legs. She began to weep as she said, "I have just won some friends for Christ and I desperately need your help. Teach me so that I can go home and explain the Christian faith more fully to them.

"And they need Bibles!"

A short time later, she returned home with copies of the *Today's Chinese Version* Bible to give to her friends—a gift made possible by the Amity Press, the Chinese Christian Council (CCC), and the American Bible Society. As this recent encounter illustrates, the need for Bibles in China is still great, as a growing church compounds the need.

According to estimates, some 40 percent of Chinese Christians, mostly in remote rural areas, have virtually no access to the Scriptures. Amity Press, China's largest printer of Scriptures, works closely with the CCC to provide Bibles for these isolated people. The American Bible Society, along with other members of the United Bible Societies, helps fund the work of Amity Press.

Today's Chinese Version is an exciting new translation in Amity's arsenal of hope: translated into easy-to-read, contemporary words and sentences that—just as ABS's *Contemporary English Version* does for English-speaking readers—it encourages greater readership and understanding for Chinese readers.

In another setting, Kathy Call, director of the China Con-



Photo by Richard Lord



nection—which also works with the CCC and Amity Press—reported the distribution of TCV Bibles at a rural church just outside Nanjing.

“Before receiving the longed-for Scriptures, these dear village Christians first bowed to thank God for answering their prayers. Today—despite their great poverty—these believers would finally be able to read their very own Bible. . . thanks to your donations.

“Tang Shan Church began 10 years ago with five people. By four years ago, they had grown so large that its members decided to build their own church. Nearby congregations donated money to encourage them.

Then parishioners gave generously to construct the sanctuary and the charming pagoda-shaped Prayer Chapel.

“With this kind of dedicated members, Tang Shan’s congregation has grown to 900 baptized believers. Each Sunday service holds 400 people packed together in Spartan, unheated surroundings. Four Chinese characters across the altar announce, ‘Immanuel: God with us!’ ”

Tan Shan Church is just one of more than 12,000 legal churches and 25,000 legal “house church” groups open for



worship today in China.

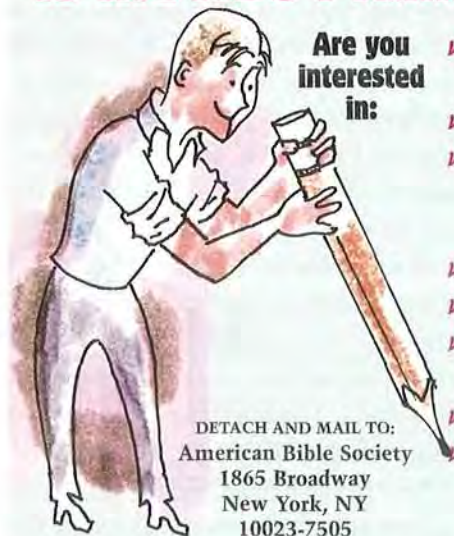
Since China’s reopening in 1979, the China Christian Council has made available 20 million legal copies of the Scriptures, of which more than 18 million have been published by Amity Printing Press in Nanjing since its inception in 1987.

The logistics of delivering those Scriptures across China’s 3.7 million square miles is daunting, with many of its 1.2 billion people living in remote areas. But Bibles are reaching into more of those areas, thanks to a growing network of new CCC distribution centers—14 were opened in 1997 alone.

Now there are many different Scripture versions and sizes available to the Chinese people. Amity prints Bibles in various national minority languages including Korean, Yi, Miao, Lisu, Jingpo, Lahu and Dai. It also publishes a Chinese Braille Bible for the vision-impaired.

Last year was an especially successful one for Amity Press. It produced 2.2 million Scriptures, including 30,000 copies of the newly completed TCV Bible, to help China’s Christians achieve greater access to God’s Word. ■

Is the ABS Planned Giving Fellowship right for you?



DETACH AND MAIL TO:
American Bible Society
1865 Broadway
New York, NY
10023-7505

- ✓ Making a lasting contribution to the mission of the American Bible Society?
- ✓ Reducing your federal income taxes?
- ✓ Transforming an investment that produces no income into a secure source of fixed income?
- ✓ Reducing taxes on your estate?
- ✓ Providing for your loved ones?
- ✓ Obtaining free advice and assistance with your financial planning?
- ✓ Preparing for retirement?
- ✓ Increasing your independence by simplifying your responsibilities to possessions?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you’ll be glad to discover the planned giving options available through the American Bible Society. To learn more about how planned giving can help you and your loved ones while helping ABS to share God’s Word, please complete and mail the form at left or call us toll-free at 1-800-820-6227.

We’ll be glad to send you a free copy of Charting Your Course, which will describe how planned giving can work for you.

YES! I want to learn how I can help my family and myself while helping ABS spread the Good News. Please send me my free copy of *Charting Your Course*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone number _____

REC898

Would the People Come?

Ramez Atallah was worried. The general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt was preparing for the 1998 Cairo Book Fair, held February 6-20, but circumstances beyond his control were threatening its success. For one thing, the fair ran a week shorter than last year's which meant that Atallah's staff had less time to make their distribution

goal. Also, the Bible Society was only allocated three exhibition stalls—one less than in 1997.

Then there was the severe downturn in the Egyptian economy, prompted by an international tourist boycott. Atallah feared that people wouldn't be able to afford the Scriptures, even at the highly subsidized prices the Bible Society offered.

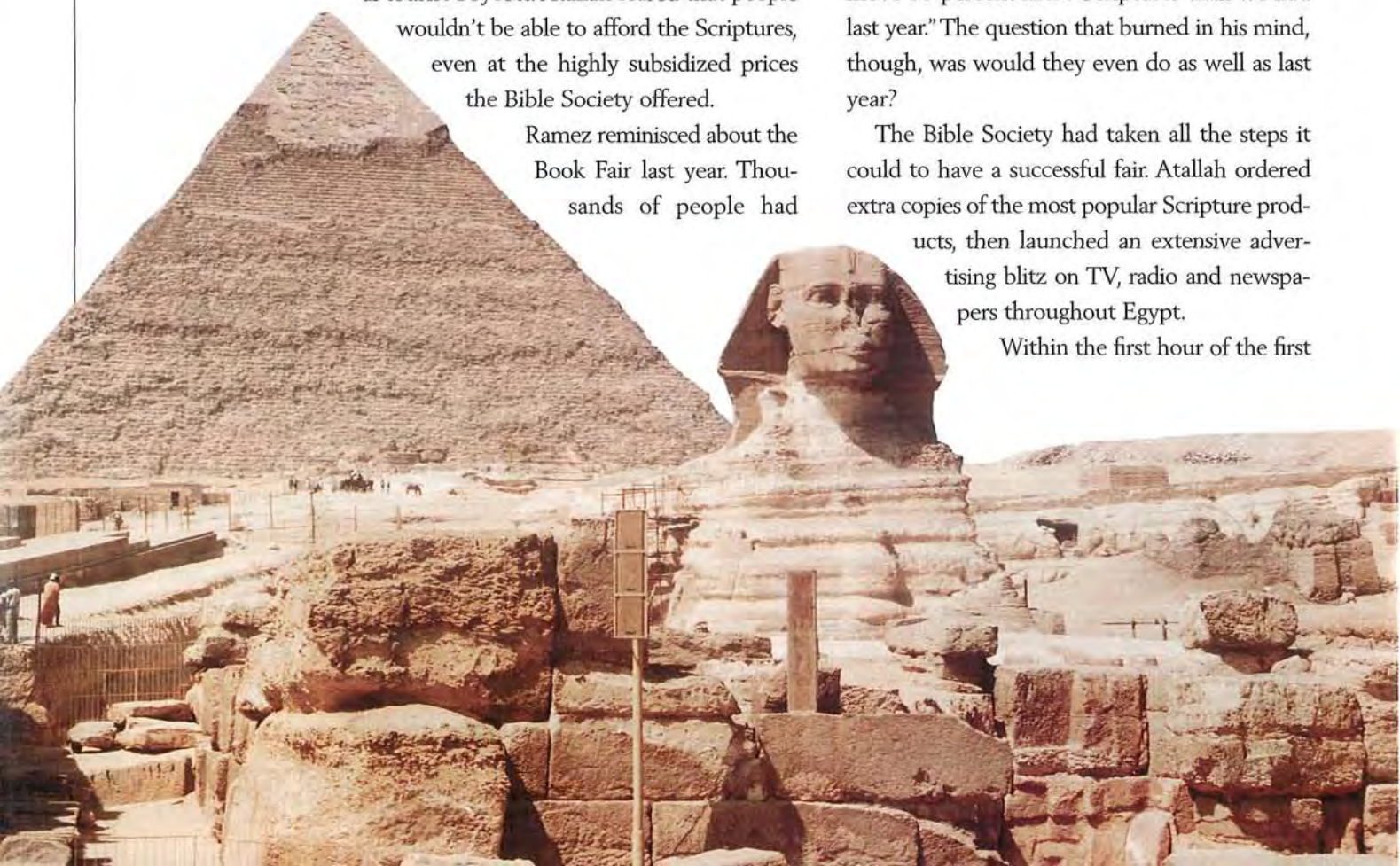
Ramez reminisced about the Book Fair last year. Thousands of people had

crammed the four book stalls, buying out several popular video, audio and print Scriptures in only the first few days of the Fair.

"Our ambition this year," Atallah said, "was to move 50 percent more Scriptures than we had last year." The question that burned in his mind, though, was would they even do as well as last year?

The Bible Society had taken all the steps it could to have a successful fair. Atallah ordered extra copies of the most popular Scripture products, then launched an extensive advertising blitz on TV, radio and newspapers throughout Egypt.

Within the first hour of the first





There was no rest for Bible Society of Egypt staff at the two-week-long 1998 Cairo Book Fair.

day of the Fair, Atallah was reassured. Crowds pushed and shoved, clamoring for the chance to get at the Scriptures. "At one of our stalls," Atallah recalled, "the crowd got so dense that it became impossible for people to even reach the counters." The unrelenting pace made a few members of Atallah's distribution team ill from stress.

In order to prevent a riot, Atallah sent team members, laden with Scriptures, out into the crowds as "mobile Scripture sharers."

This harried scene was repeated every day of the two-week fair, much to the amazement of other booksellers.

"Where will you be next year?" asked the manager of an adjoining stall whose own business benefited from the long lines of people spilling over into his space. "I want to make sure I am next to you again!"

The Bible Society of Egypt's success at the 1998 Cairo Book Fair exceeded Atallah's highest hopes. They surpassed their original goal, distributing twice as many Scriptures as last year. "Assume we are open 10 hours per working day throughout February," Atallah said. "This is how our two-week Book Fair sales would have broken down, per working hour, for the entire month: 57 Bibles, 160 New Testaments, 168 Scripture videos, and 953 Scripture audio cassettes!"

"I would like to thank all those who prayed for our work and especially our work at the Cairo Book Fair," he said. "We have all felt the close protection of God in a special way and we hope to continue to provide the people of Egypt with the Scriptures they most need in the months and years ahead." ■

FOR THE RECORD

100 YEARS AGO

Blindness Didn't Keep Her From the Word

The February 1898 *Record* told of a "poor old woman far in the interior [of Brazil], who cannot read [and] pays passers-by to read her Bible to her. She kept a bookmark at the place where the missionary read on his last yearly visit. She may be found with the Bible on her lap open at that place and tears streaming from her eyes. By living its precepts she is teaching the truth to her wicked neighbors. Few are as poor as this woman, yet she is far richer and happier than her neighbors in the possession of her precious Bible."

50 YEARS AGO

They Made a Stand for the Scriptures

These days it might spark a debate in the local legislature, but in July 1948 it generated curiosity. When Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Wheat presented a wayfarer's Bible, encased in unbreakable glass on a marble pedestal, to the City of Memphis (Tenn.) for display in the city's Court Square, the *Record* reported the event.

"What more appropriate place to find a Bible? Yet possibly only in Memphis is a Bible always at hand in such a spot of refuge." The Bible display, the article added, "is a project of the Memphis Union Mission, whose superintendent, Jimmy Stroud, will change the page daily." ■



Left to right: *Lutheran Radio Hour* host Dr. Walter Maier, Charles Wheat, and Memphis Union Mission Superintendent Jimmy Stroud were on hand for the dedication of the Bible Stand in Memphis.

HIS DAUGHTER'S PRAYER

In their loss Arthur and Audrey Schirmer discovered that you can't out-give God.

Jean had been an ideal daughter—a radiant Christian who had everything going for her. She graduated with honors from Christ Hospital nursing school. Recently accepted into the Providence Bible Institute, she was to begin training as a missionary nurse in just a few weeks.

But secretly, Jean was concerned for her parents. Even though she had introduced her father, Arthur Schirmer, to Christian prayer at a "Word of Life" rally in Times Square several years earlier, she had seen little evidence of change in him.

Then on August 21, 1948, while working in the office of his typesetting company, Arthur Schirmer got a phone call. It was his wife, Audrey.

"What's the worst thing in the world?" she asked, and then supplied an answer worse than anything Schirmer might have imagined. Their daughter Jean was dead. While swimming at a Bible camp on the New Jersey shore she had apparently drowned.

Struck down with pain, Schirmer looked up to heaven. "Lord," he prayed, "I've made a mess of my life. I will dedicate myself completely to Your service if You want me to."

"I want you to," was the reply he heard. And in that instant, he was overwhelmed with a new sense of direction and purpose. God wanted him to change his life. He felt God's call to sell his business.

Five months later, seeking God's direction brought Schirmer to the American Bible Society in New York. As he stood in front of the ABS building, his eyes were drawn to a display of Bibles translated into many languages. As a typesetter, he was acutely aware of the difficulties setting type in so many different languages. His interest aroused, he went in to inquire about the typesetting involved.

Within days, Arthur convinced Dr. Gilbert Darlington,



Arthur Schirmer
in 1978.

then head of ABS, that he could meet ABS's typesetting needs at a plant he would build in Pennsylvania. For the next 20 years, Schirmer would continue his professional association with the Bible Society, typesetting the Bible into many languages.

In the following years, Arthur and Audrey often gave testimony about how their daughter's faith and death had caused them to redirect their lives. In 1950, Schirmer was invited to give his testimony at the commencement of a Bible

College in upstate New York. Afterward, Edna, and some other students—friends of Jean's who had been at Bible camp with her when she died—invited the Schirmers to dinner.

At dinner they asked the Schirmers if they knew about the prayer meeting at the Bible camp the Thursday before Jean's death. "What prayer meeting?" Arthur asked. The young women then told the Schirmers how, two days before she died, Jean had offered a prayer for her parents. "Pray for faith for my mother and father," Jean had said. "The Lord may have to take my life to bring them to Him."

At 95 Arthur still drives to the supermarket and is an active ABS Volunteer. "I'm very happy with the Bible Society," he says. "They are doing great, great work."

As part of his legacy, Schirmer has included provisions for several ABS Gift Annuities in his will. The annuities will provide support for his loved ones, and also help to share God's Word with others. The American Bible Society is very honored to have supporters like Arthur Schirmer.

"I shouldn't get credit for anything," says Arthur Schirmer. "All the credit goes to God. You can't out-give God."

If you or someone you know is interested in including Bible Society work in your plans, please call 1-800-820-6227. ABS offers a variety of free publications on gift annuities and will preparation you are sure to find helpful. ■

NATIONAL NEWS

■ ARKANSAS

Hope Migrant Mission Center, in Hope, Arkansas, brings hope and a sense of belonging to thousands of migrant farm workers as they travel throughout the U.S. picking crops. The workers—often entire families—appreciate the kindness and caring fellowship they receive at the Center.



This family checks out some of the Scripture offerings at the Hope Migrant Mission Center.

“Last year,” says Paul Roaten, director of Hope Migrant Mission, “we had a total registration of 10,557 Hispanic migrant workers. Most of these are very humble people and many have little or no background in a church or little or no contact with the Bible.”

Being a small ministry operating on a shoestring budget, Hope Migrant Mission asked ABS for help in providing the Scriptures. The ABS Scripture Grants Program gladly responded with 5,000 Spanish Bibles.

Roaten added that most of the Bibles were given to migrants who either never owned a

copy or had Bibles so old and frayed from use that they needed new ones. “What a blessing,” he said, “to be able to share a copy of God’s Word with them as they visit our Center. They are also a very grateful people. They are very proud of the Bibles we are able to share with them.

“Therefore, you can understand how much your donation of Bibles means to this ministry. We continue to be grateful for the way the Lord has blessed others through your ministry of translating, printing and distributing His Word throughout the world. Thank you and may the Lord bless you.”

■ OHIO

The letter was simple, written in block letters on crumpled yellow paper. “I am an inmate at the Central Reception Center in Orient, Ohio,” the young man wrote. “I just wanted to send you a quick thank you. I received a Bible here and your address was on the back. I have *Today’s English Version*. This Bible is a lot easier for me to understand than the *King James Version*. I have accepted Jesus as my Savior and I would like to thank you for making His Word available to me in plain English. On behalf of myself and all of the other inmates here who have received Bibles, keep up your wonderful work and God bless you.”



BIBLES
DISTRIBUTED
IN 1997

PERU
160,289

INDONESIA
652,196

RUSSIA
292,196

GHANA
189,821

WEST BANK
13,422

HAITI
60,566



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

■ PERU

On the surface children at the small Presbyterian church school look like students at any other elementary school. Boys and girls sit attentively at their desks during lessons and, at recess, they run and play pretty much as kids throughout the world do. But surprisingly, they hate to leave the San Genoro School on weekends and holidays.

The reason is that there is literally nowhere else for these students to receive the care, encouragement, and love they get at school. Most come from broken homes or have no homes at all. They are among the voiceless and poor of Peru's bustling capital city, Lima.

School psychologist Erika Chaves knows most of the youngsters by name. "Many of them," she explains, "have come into the school in a state of shock, the result of their troubled backgrounds."

Chaves and her dedicated colleagues work hard to restore the children's self-worth and to instill in them good basic lifeskills—proper hygiene, healthy diet, good social skills, and a sense of right and wrong. New Reader Scriptures, she reports, play a vital role in these efforts, helping them read and understand the Bible on their own.

The proof is in the kids themselves. Recently, an official from the United Bible Societies got to meet a few of them. They impressed him with their simple faith and knowledge of the Bible. One little girl told him she had just finished reading the New Testament account of Paul and Silas in prison. "When these men were in trouble," she said, "they prayed and sang praises to God, and this made me realize that I, too, should pray when I have difficulties in my life."

Said another child, "The Bible helps me un-



These young Peruvian students, like those who attend San Genoro School in Lima, respond with eagerness for the Word of God.

derstand how I should behave and makes me want to believe and trust in God."

■ GERMANY

The colorful nomad tent beckons visitors to enter, enticing them with the aroma of frankincense and myrrh and the lilt of an ancient Arabic folk tune.

Surprisingly, the visitors aren't Middle East tourists, but visitors to the German Bible Society's headquarters in Stuttgart. It's part of an interactive museum that opened there in January, designed to share the story of the Bible by using the senses of hearing, touch and smell. There is also a replica of the night sky as seen from Jerusalem in April, neon projections of Psalm 23 in a variety of languages, Bible-based computer programs, and two multi-media games that test visitors' Scripture knowledge.

Reaction to the museum has been electric. "Via this exciting presentation," said Stuttgart's mayor, Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, "the Bible will interest even the not so biblically well-versed visitor." ■



Babushka's Gift Came Back

Ludmilla Zaphor-Ozhets still treasured childhood memories of sitting on her grandmother's knee as Babushka read Bible stories to her. It was the 1970s and Ukraine, where Ludmilla lived, was part of the Soviet Union.

Two decades later, Ukraine was once more an independent nation. Ludmilla, now a young adult, was busy running a successful business and raising a family. Everyday pressures left her little time to think of God.

Then one day her 10-year-old son, Vitalik, brought home a Russian Children's Bible, given to him by a Ukraine Bible Society official visiting his Sunday School class.

Vitalik showed his mother the Bible and she

began to read. "I found it fascinating," Ludmilla recalls. "Here were some of the stories I remembered my grandmother telling us in my childhood days." Mother and son began reading the Bible stories together, and Ludmilla found herself coming closer to God.

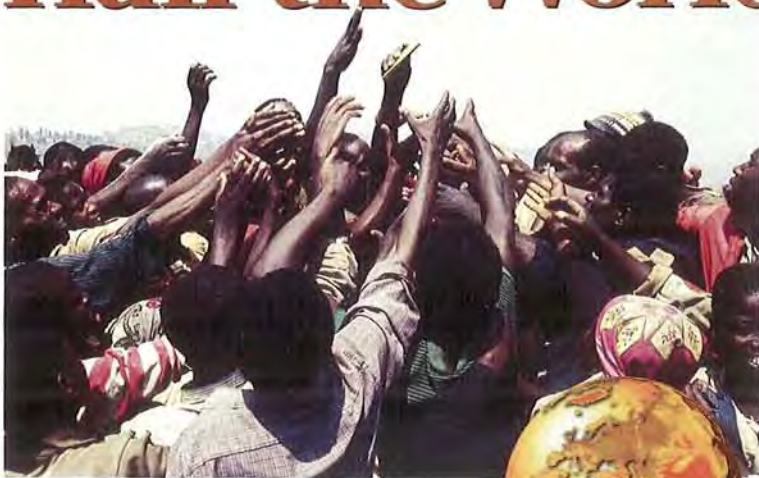
"I feel that the Bible has the answers to my deepest questions," she explains. "My husband is also interested but says he needs more time. But one thing is sure: we are happy that Vitalik brought the Children's Bible into our home."

The Children's Bible that touched Ludmilla Zaphor-Ozhets and her family was provided thanks to the generosity of Bible-a-Month Club members. 📖

Your August gift can touch lives in Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi, while a September gift will provide more Bibles for Ukraine and Belarus.

To find out more about joining Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form at the bottom of this page or write: American Bible Society Bible-a-Month Club 1865 Broadway New York, NY 10023-7505.

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.

Mail this coupon along with your tax-deductible gift in the envelope included in the ABS Record. Or mail to:

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

Yes! I want to join the Bible-a-Month Club. I will give \$ _____ a month to provide _____ Bibles at \$4 each.
 My first Bible-a-Month Club gift of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

822600RO



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

- 1 Hebrews 11.1-40
- 2 Hebrews 12.1-29
- 3 2 & 3 John
- 4 Philemon

SUNDAY

- 5 Colossians 4.2-18
- 6 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
- 7 1 Thessalonians 2.1-16
- 8 1 Thessalonians 2.17—3.13
- 9 1 Thessalonians 4.1-18
- 10 1 Thessalonians 5.1-28
- 11 2 Thessalonians 1.1-12

SUNDAY

- 12 2 Thessalonians 2.1-17
- 13 2 Thessalonians 3.1-18
- 14 1 Timothy 1.1-20
- 15 1 Timothy 2.1-15
- 16 1 Timothy 3.1-16
- 17 1 Timothy 4.1-16
- 18 1 Timothy 5.1—6.2a

SUNDAY

- 19 1 Timothy 6.2b-21
 - 20 2 Timothy 1.1-18
 - 21 2 Timothy 2.1-26
 - 22 2 Timothy 3.1—4.8
 - 23 2 Timothy 4.9-22
 - 24 Joshua 23.1-16
 - 25 Joshua 24.1-28
- SUNDAY
- 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

- 1 2 Corinthians 1.1-11
- SUNDAY
- 2 2 Corinthians 4.1-15
 - 3 2 Corinthians 4.16—5.10
 - 4 2 Corinthians 5.11—6.13
 - 5 Ephesians 1.1-23
 - 6 Ephesians 2.1-22
 - 7 Ephesians 3.1-21
 - 8 Ephesians 4.1-16

SUNDAY

- 9 Ephesians 4.17—5.2
 - 10 Ephesians 5.3-33
 - 11 Ephesians 6.1-9
 - 12 Ephesians 6.10-24
 - 13 Philippians 1.1-11
 - 14 Philippians 1.12-30
 - 15 Philippians 2.1-11
- SUNDAY
- 16 Philippians 2.12-30
 - 17 Philippians 3.1-11
 - 18 Philippians 3.12—4.1
 - 19 Philippians 4.2-23
 - 20 Titus 1.1-16
 - 21 Titus 2.1-15
 - 22 Titus 3.1-15

SUNDAY

- 23 Romans 6.1-23
- 24 Romans 12.1-21
- 25 Romans 14.1-23
- 26 Romans 15.1-13
- 27 Romans 15.14-33
- 28 1 Corinthians 1.1-17
- 29 1 Corinthians 4.1-21

SUNDAY

- 30 1 Corinthians 12.1-11
- 31 1 Corinthians 12.12-31

PLEASE PRAY

Business Leaders— Those who run our nation's businesses face tough daily challenges. Pray that they will turn to the Word of God to find strength and encouragement for making the right decisions.

Suriname— Despite a poor economy that has negatively affected many businesses and organizations, the Suriname Bible Society is still reaching people in rural areas, inner cities and prisons with the Word of God. Pray that God will continue to bless this vital work.

Single Parents— Raising a child on one's own can often be overwhelming. But a single mom or dad need not face these challenges alone. Pray that through the Scriptures single parents will learn that God sees them through even the toughest of times.

Philippines— To help non-readers and the visually impaired to experience the fullness of the Scripture message, a taped version of the Tagalog Bible is being produced. Pray for its successful completion and also for the many other Scripture translation and distribution projects now underway in this Asian nation.

Athletes— Whether they play in the professional spotlight, school gymnasium or local sandlot, athletes at all levels strive to be the best. Pray that whether they experience victory or defeat, they will remember to keep their eyes on the true prize: Jesus Christ. 🏆

I N M E M O R I A M

M E M O R I A L I Z E A L O V E D O N E B Y H E L P I N G T O P R O V I D E

B I B L E S T O P E O P L E W H O D O N ' T Y E T H A V E O N E

JOHN C. ABBOTT
Given by: Vera Abbott and Mr. & Mrs. John Boyett

MY MOTHER,
CLAIRE I. HUNTER AMBROSE
Given by: Mrs. Jeanine Bussey

DR. GORDON F. ANDERSON
Given by: Mrs. Gerald F. Davey

MY FATHER, J. H. ARKINSON
Given by: Mrs. Marian Tisdale

NEAMAH WHITING-BARKER
Given by: Mrs. G. L. Barker

MY BROTHER,
FRANCIS H. BECKER
Given by: Mrs. Catherine Letchworth

PATRICIA ANN BENDER
Given by: Mrs. Kathleen Benevit

MY MOTHER,
DOROTHY S. BOSTROM
Given by: Mrs. Betty F. Lenthall

THE REV. & MRS. AARON
BREEZE
Given by: Miss Frances A. Breeze

EMRO BRUCH
Given by: J. Notehelfer

THE REV. CLARENCE BUKER,
SR.
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon York

MY MOTHER, NAOMI K.
BURKHALTER, MY SISTER,
RUBY B. LOKEY, MY HUSBAND,
EDMUND A. HARDCASTLE
AND MY SON, EDMUND A.
HARDCASTLE, JR.
Given by: Mrs. Daisy B. Hardcastle

THE REV. CHARLES E.
BUSHNELL
Given by: Mr. John Charles Bushnell & Family

MY MOTHER,
GERTRUDE N. BURMEISTER
Given by: Mr. Paul F. Burmeister

MR. & MRS. EARL CAMP,
MR. & MRS. JOHN ESTOCK
Given by: Miss Shirley D. Estock

MY HUSBAND,
ARTHUR CANNING
Given by: Mrs. Mary L. Canning

MY WIFE,
ANNA K. CHAMBLIN
Given by: Mr. K. H. Chamblin

MRS. W. B. COLLINS
Given by: Ms. Sarah G. Newsome

ISABELLE COOK
Given by: Royce K. Cook

BETTY JENNINGS COX
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Wiley

OUR GRANDMOTHER,
HAZEL DANENS
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Garrow

MY MOTHER, JULIA DAVIS
Given by: Mrs. Nancy Young

GWYNN DAY
Given by: First Baptist Church,
The Gwynn Day Class

RALPH EDGAR DELLIGATTI
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Thrasher

JOSEPH DUVA
Given by: Mrs. Gloria M. Croft

MY FATHER,
COLEMAN B. EDMUNDS
Given by: Miss Mittie L. Edmunds

MARY L. EHRET
Given by: Mrs. Jacqueline E. Thornton

MY HUSBAND,
GEORGE EICHHORST
Given by: Mrs. Iraline Eichhorst

EMMA ERISMAN
Given by: Miss Edna Erisman

DR. & MRS. GEORGE E. EXON
Given by: Refreshing Spring Church

ARVILLA E. FLISHER
Given by: Mr. Jacob H. Flisher

MY HUSBAND,
HERSCHEL FLUGSTAD
Given by: Mrs. Dorothy I. Flugstad

MY WIFE,
MRS. WINIFRED A. FORCE
Given by: Mr. Ronald C. Force

MRS. PAUL GALLOWAY
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Paul W. Milhouse

DR. F. D. GENTRY
Given by: William S. & Ruth Black

L. C. GILMORE
Given by: Michele, Larry, Killian & Keenan Brooks

ANNIE LEE GRIFFIN
Given by: Mr. George Randle

HAZEL K. HAGERTY
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. R. Bruce Rieser

MARIAN LEE HAIRABEDIAN
Given by: Ms. Billie G. (Murphy) Oakland, Bruce Murphy Oakland, Ann Murphy, Ed & Jeanne Murphy and Gay & Jeff (Murphy) Taylor

BISHOP W. T. HANDY, JR. AND
BISHOP PAUL GALLOWAY
Given by: Mr. Paul W. Milhouse

ALMA HANSON
Given by: Mr. Harold Hanson

VIRGINIA HEIGES
Given by: Miss Virginia Hammond

MY DAUGHTER,
JACQUELINE B. HELFERICH
Given by: Ms. Bernice H. Helferich

JACK W. HELMS
Given by: Don & Ethel Joiner

DR. & MRS. A. J. HENDERSON
Given by: Mrs. Arthur A. Henderson

J. HENRY HIGHFILL, JR.
Given by: Paul & Laura Belle Forsythe

RUEL HOKE
Given by: Mrs. Lois Ellington

RUSSELL HOLLISTER
Given by: Mrs. Pam Boyer

GENEVIEVE HOOKS
Given by: Gilbert United Methodist Women

ROBERTA HARRISON HOWELL
Given by: Ruff & Maxine (Little) Gentry

CECIL S. & TIM C. HUDMON
Given by: Mrs. Virginia Hudmon

ROGER W. HUFFMAN
Given by: Mr. James Bell

MY HUSBAND,
CAPTAIN WALTER C.
HUTCHENS, CHC, USN
Given by: Mrs. Margaret R. Wimmer

MY WIFE,
FRANCES MARIE JOHNSON
Given by: Mr. Philip Johnson

OUR SON,
PAUL G. KERSHAW
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. John W. Kershaw

LOLA BELLE KNAUSS
Given by: Marshall & Billee Smith

PEARL KREISCHER
Given by: Miss Alice Pollert and Mr. John Espich

MY FATHER,
CARL F. KRUEGER
Given by: Mrs. Sharon Rafferty

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

ROBERT LILLY
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Claude Lataillade

LUCY ELLEN MAGEE
Given by: Mr. Horace B. Magee

THE REV. R. G. MOHRMAN
Given by: Mr. Richard Mohrman

MY HUSBAND,
WILLARD E. MORGAN
Given by: Mrs. Helen L. Morgan

EVELYN MYERS
Given by: Miss Martha Fleck

ALEX & ETHEL NICOL
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. David J. Nicol

MY PARENTS, MR. & MRS.
RICHARD H. PAGAN
Given by: Mrs. Aletta P. Vanhoesen

SARAH PARKER
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Leroy G. Meader

YVONNE PASSUELLO
Given by: Mr. William J. Passuello

HELEN PAULOS
Given by: Mr. Timothy Christopulos

JULIA STODDARD PERRY
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Louis B. Perry

DOROTHY POE
Given by: Mrs. Irene Dominy

MARY POLICZ
Given by: Miss Daisy Durand, Albert Todoroff and David Durand

CHARLEEN POMEROY
Given by: Miss Thyera F. Dexter

JAMES I. PORTER
Given by: Mrs. James I. Porter

DOROTHY REDDEN
Given by: George & Dolores Frenzel

BILL SCHANNAUER
Given by: Mrs. Anna R. Schannauer

MR. & MRS. B. H. SETTLEMYRE
Given by: Mrs. Clara S. Setzer

EDWIN & RUTH SHOEMAKER
Given by: Mr. Robert L. Shoemaker

JOHN SIBLEY
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Billy P. Tucker

MILDRED & HARRY SINGER
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Edgar H. Stoney

MY MOTHER, RUTH SMITH
Given by: Mr. Calvin R. Smith

JAMES O. SOLSETH
Given by: Bill & Merrilyn Seefeldt

MARTHA STAIANO
Given by: Mrs. Janet Staiano

OUR PARENTS, THE REV. &
MRS. EMANUEL STAUFFER
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. James C. Wallace

COURTNEY STEWART
Given by: Miss Evelyn Casey

LINDA TAN STICKLAND
Given by: Patricia Tan

MY HUSBAND, ALVIN STIEBS
Given by: Mrs. Velma D. Stiebs

JOHN STINSON
Given by: Ms. Christena Cassidy

MY WIFE,
MARTHA MCKAY STOVALL
Given by: Mr. George W. Stovall

DOROTHY STRUYK
Given by: Mrs. J. Milstein

FREDERICK J. TOOLE
Given by: Mr. James Toole

DR. RALPH TRIPLETT
Given by: Mrs. Oletha M. McCoy

RODNEY PHILIP TRUE
Given by: Mrs. Dorothy T. Metzger

HESTER TURNER
Given by: Miss Rebecca A. Berna

RALPH C. VORHIS
Given by: Ms. Marcia N. Owens

MY WIFE,
MARIAN E. WILLIAMS
Given by: The Rev. R. Williams

MY WIFE,
NANCY JOANNE WILLIAMS
Given by: Dr. Ted R. Williams

MY HUSBAND,
ROY M. WILLIAMS, SR.
Given by: Mrs. Neva E. Williams

RONALD W. WILLIS
Given by: Miss Pat Willis

HOWARD WILLIAM
WINKELMAN
Given by: Dr. R. J. Winkelman

CHARLES WRIGHT
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Marshall C. Smith

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.