

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

October | November 1999

21 OPPORTUNITY

RESPONDING TO A GROWING NEED

PROVIDING GOD'S WORD IN THE 21st CENTURY

Opportunity 21 for a New Millennium

"...On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will have no power over it."

Matthew 16.18 (CEV)

We are just months away from the new millennium. Most people look forward to widespread celebration. Still, some Christians are anxious, not just over potential Y2K computer glitches, but also in the wider sense, about our future and whether Christianity can flourish in the new era.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that we have the Word of the Lord himself that the church will prevail.

Since we at the American Bible Society are involved in sowing the Word of God, something always at the heart of the church, we have faith that God will continue to watch over us.

Proof of that faith is that we are embarking on what will be our most significant program of outreach ever. It's called *Opportunity 21*, a name which refers to how we at ABS and at the United Bible Societies (UBS) look at this new millennium.

I have served on the board of UBS—the group that brings together national Bible societies all over the world—since 1992. A major frustration of that work has been that every year we have discovered a larger gap between the resources we have to deliver God's Word and the needs which are out there. We regularly have to answer the question: "Who won't get a Bible this year?"



But we have made progress. For example, when the fall of communism opened up new opportunities, we committed \$23.5 million to establish Bible work to be carried out by 23 new national Bible societies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Through *Opportunity 21*, we will assist more people to spread the Word throughout the world [details can be found in our cover story this issue beginning on page 4].

We plan on gathering, with the assistance of our partners in this effort, a total of \$90 million over the next three years to fund Scripture distribution in places which are crying out for the Word of God. We are starting, appropriately enough, with a focus on the Holy Land.

We are optimistic that the problems of Y2K will be surmounted. More than that, we are convinced that now—at the dawn of the 2,000-year anniversary of the Christian story—is the time to embark upon this ambitious effort called *Opportunity 21*. ■

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

Publication Director

David Singer

Editor

Peter Feuerherd

Staff Writer

Thomas D. Sullivan

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

October / November 1999 | Volume 144, Number 6

F E A T U R E S

4 **Opportunity 21: Providing God's Word in the 21st Century**
Making history

8 **The Word Through New Windows**
ABS films a new translation



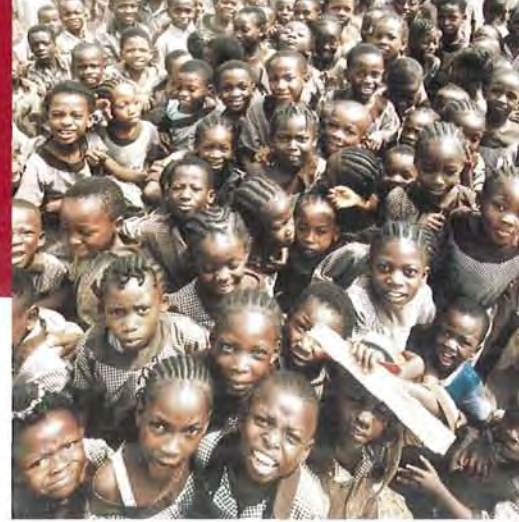
10 **CEV: Hearing God's Word For All Its Worth**
A new concept in Bible translation

12 **TRUCE Brings Cooling Presence to Hot City**
Nicky Cruz story inspires another troubled generation

18 **Bible Sunday Brings God's Word to the World**
'Making the Master Smile' is churches' Nov. 21 focus

20 **Author Reflects on Life's Struggles**
An advocate for the mentally retarded

SEE PAGE 12



ON THE COVER: Children of the Molete Baptist Goodwill Nursery and Primary School in Ibadan, Nigeria, crowd round Maurice Harvey, United Bible Societies photojournalist.

D E P A R T M E N T S

14 For the *Record*:
Looking Back

16 Profiles:
Seeing the Power of the Word

17 Volunteer Award of Merit:
Judy Barclay

17 Getting to Know Our Trustees:
Using Technology to Present God's Word

21 Bible in the News:
Scriptures in Today's Headlines

22 Update:
International News

24 Update:
National News

25 Bible-a-Month Club:
Bible Brings Drug Addict to Christ

26 Quiet Time:
Daily Bible Reading and Prayer

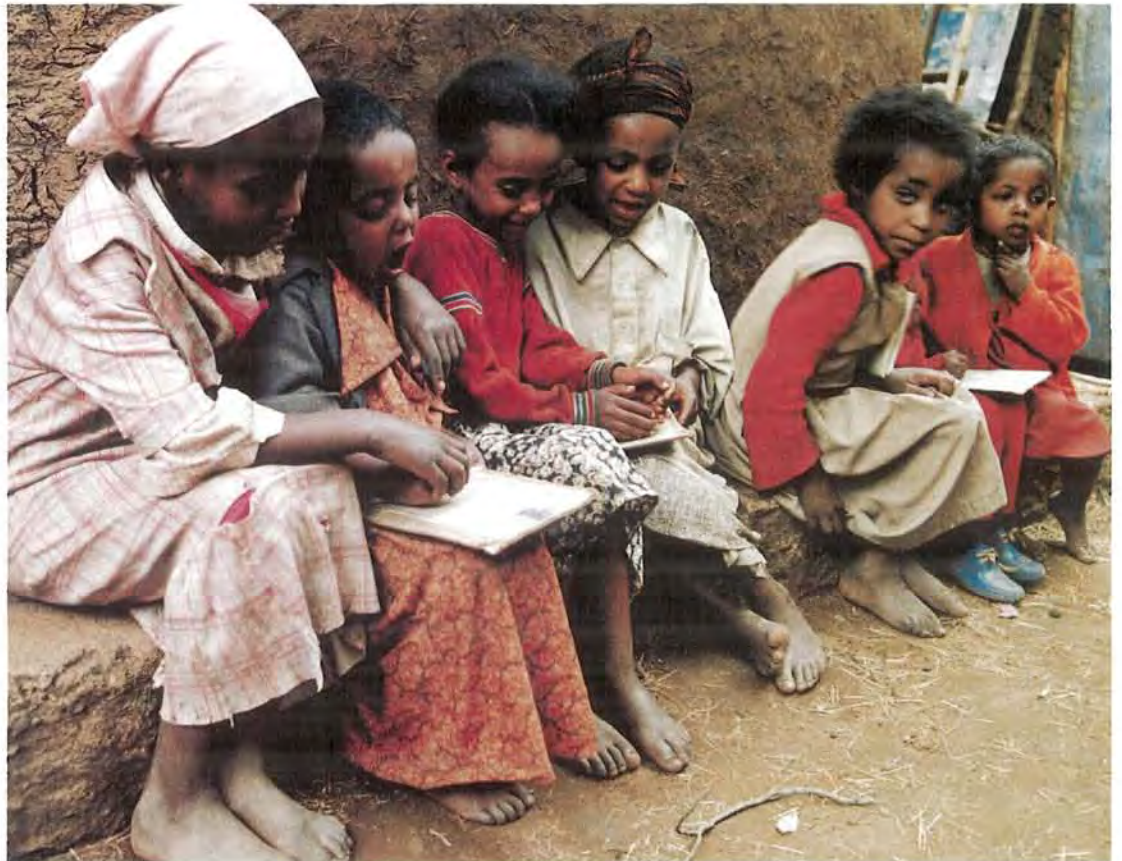
27 In Memoriam:
Our Loved Ones Remembered

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.americانبible.org

OPPORTUNITY 21

PROVIDING GOD'S WORD IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

BY PETER
FEUERHERD



Children learn the Amharic alphabet to promote Bible reading in Ethiopia. (Photo by Maurice Harvey/UBS).

Deepak, a teen-age boy raised in predominately Hindu India, never learned about the gospel as a child. But when a Christian missionary recently came to his village and told him the story of Jesus, Deepak committed his life to Christ.

But will Deepak ever grow in his faith without access to the Scriptures?

Though Deepak is a fictional composite, his need is real. The worldwide demand for Scriptures regularly outpaces all the resources available to supply them. Just this year, for example, in some 80 countries, requests for 67 million Scriptures went unmet.

As a result, leaders of United Bible Societies (UBS)—representing a global fellowship of 135 national Bible societies whose mission is to translate, publish, and distribute the Holy Scriptures—face the difficult task of setting priorities. It always comes down to the hard question, “Who won’t get Bibles this year?”

“I didn’t know the extent of the global need until recently,” said Hugh O. Maclellan of the Maclellan Foundation. “Here in the United States we think everyone has a Bible. Christians need to know that worldwide church growth is outstripping the supply of new Bibles—that the church will triple in size within the next 10 years—that the gap in Scripture availability will become even more serious.” The Bible, he said, is “the key to the health and growth of the church.”

This conviction, and the dawn of a new millennium, sparked an urgency to find the necessary resources. The Maclellan Foundation challenged the world’s leading Bible distributor, the American Bible Society, and its UBS partners, to conceive a new vision to meet the worldwide need for Scriptures.

“Reaching the goal of providing the Scriptures throughout the world is best done via the United Bible Societies,” said Mr. Maclellan, who



notes that the societies already have a structure in place to meet Scripture needs.

Operation 21, jump-started by a \$15 million challenge grant from the Maclellan Foundation, brings together the resources of the UBS, ABS, and many other ministry partners. If successful, this new vision will add 90 million dollars for new Bible work around the world during the next three years.

As a measure of its optimism for Operation 21, after matching Maclellan’s largest grant ever, the ABS Board of Trustees will match \$15 million in gifts given by other national ministry partners. They will seek to raise another \$15 million in gifts from individual donors. Opportunity 21’s coalition of resources will make it possible for supporters of the Bible cause to leverage their giving as never before.

THE SCOPE OF OPPORTUNITY 21

Opportunity 21 will use these Scriptures as a cornerstone for evangelization and discipleship in more than 60 countries. “Our goal is to bring

Bibles in hand carts gathered for readers in rural China. (Photo by David Singer).



Boys carry a 45-volume Braille Bible for use in Manila, Philippines. (Photo: Resources for the Blind, Philippines).

the power and promise of God's Word to an increasingly post-modern, post-literate, and spiritually searching world," said Dr. Eugene Habecker, president of the American Bible Society and chairman of the UBS Executive Committee.

Christianity is growing rapidly in areas such as Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. But the seeds of new conversion often fall on parched earth, according to Tom McCallie of the Maclellan Foundation.

Research by the Foundation, he said, indicates that "new converts need the Word to grow in faith." He noted that new Christians in places such as Africa and India often fall back to old ways because they have no access to the Bible.

"Bible reading is the most important means of preserving the commitment to Christ," he said. "The Bible provides substance to Christian conversion."

Besides distributing Scripture, the Opportunity 21 vision calls for expanding Scripture translation efforts. There are an estimated 6,500 languages and dialects in the world. Of those, only about 366 have full Biblical translations; 928 have New Testaments, and about 1,000

have translated Portions of Scripture. Besides expanding print translations, Opportunity 21 also will provide Bible videos and audiocassettes to reach those who are illiterate.

UBS General Secretary Fergus Macdonald, noting that nearly half the people in the world are non-literate, said, "Opportunity 21 can, for the first time, allow us to provide significant Scriptures in video, audio, and other non-print formats. With these, we can reach people with the gospel we would never reach through print alone."

Opportunity 21's first-year program focus will coincide with the international millennium focus on the Biblical lands—Israel, Egypt, the West Bank, and Rome. Projects will include the distri-

bution of a "Christmas Book" given to pilgrims visiting Bethlehem; Arabic "peace portions" of the New Testament distributed in Galilee; and the development and distribution of audio and video Scriptures in Lebanon and Egypt.

In cooperation with the Vatican, Scriptures will also be distributed to the estimated 20 million pilgrims who will visit Rome next year.

After this stage-one focus on the Holy Land, priority will be given to those countries experiencing rapid church growth, such as China and Russia, which have been closed until recently to the Christian message, and those countries with a non-Christian majority.

Besides more than 50 United Bible Societies members, Opportunity 21 will also include partnerships with a number of U.S.-based ministries, including Campus Crusade, Christian Sports Ministry, the International Bible Society, the Jesus Film, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Hosanna/Faith Comes by Hearing, Operation Mobilization and SAT-7TV.

Much of the cost of the new venture will be borne by U.S. Christians via ABS, the Maclellan Foundation, and its Opportunity 21 partners.

And this is appropriate, said Arthur Caccese, senior vice president for development and communications for ABS.

"It's difficult for Americans to imagine," he said, "that there are parts of the world where people have never seen a Bible or live where the Scriptures are scarce.

"We in this country, who have been so blessed, have the opportunity and privilege to affect change in people's lives that will last eternally."

Noting the interest in Christianity throughout the world, particularly in newly-opened

mission fields such as China and India, Mr. Caccese emphasized that "we are in a watershed period in church history."

An effective response to that watershed challenge will culminate in quenching the thirst for Scripture for Deepak and the millions more he represents. Over the next several years, the potential exists to provide Bibles and other Scriptures to millions around the world. Thanks to Opportunity 21 and the generosity of those committed to God's Word, millions will gain access to the reservoir of wisdom and Good News contained in the Scriptures. ❧



Students read the Scriptures in Sunday School at Coptic Church in Cairo. (Photo by David Singer).

PROJECTS THAT WILL SPREAD THE WORD

Among the projects which Opportunity 21 will fund are:

- Scriptures for 500,000 children in institutions in Angola who are living in orphanages and child-care centers due to that African country's history of civil war;
- Providing Scriptures for young Christian teachers in Cambodia, where Christianity was almost wiped out when, between 1975 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge killed 15 percent of the population and persecuted Christians and other believers;
- Portions of Scriptures devoted to combating drug abuse in Chile, a country where young people are coping with the temptations of a new economic prosperity;
- Organizing Bible classes for the children living on the streets of Costa Rica;
- Providing Faith Comes by Hearing audiocassette Scriptures in Ghana and other African countries. They are frequently broadcast over the radio, where they are listened to in village discussion and study groups;
- In India, 500,000 New Testaments will be published in 16 major Indian languages. More than 35,000 New Testaments will also be published for the first time in a



Church women carry Bibles for distribution in Nanjing, China. (Photo by David Singer).

variety of tribal languages as part of the Bible Society of India's "Jubilee 2000: God's Word in a Changing World" program;

- Providing 55,000 children entering school each year in Jamaica with the easy-to-understand New International Version Bible, offering an alternative to the King James Version, often hard for young children to understand;
- Broadcasting a Christian Biblical message throughout the vast regions of Russia, followed up by distributing up to 100,000 Russian Bibles; and
- Distributing 75,000 youth edition Swahili Bibles in Tanzania. ❧

The Word Through New

ABS films a new translation

**STORY AND
PHOTOGRAPHS
BY THOMAS D.
SULLIVAN**

In a storefront church on a Jersey City, N.J., street, a man speaks in front of a camera, telling of a discovery 2,000 years ago.

He speaks of a woman, standing outside a tomb, crying. The woman sees two angels, who ask her why she cries. "They have taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they have put him."

There is a tremor in the man's voice as he speaks the woman's words. A dim light flickers on the walls. He describes how the woman turns, and sees a man, and asks him if he took her Lord's body. Then Jesus says to her, "Mary!" And the woman recognizes him.

This is a new ABS translation in the making, a rendering of the 20th chapter of the Gospel of John into visual form, to be released in video and CD-ROM forms. It will also be on the Internet at www.newmedia.org.

ABS is creating a new type of translation.

Fern Lee Hagedorn, an ABS consultant who is the executive producer of the film, explains that these films aim to translate the gospel into film and interactive media, just as translators render the Bible's original Hebrew and Greek



into modern languages in print.

The film is the fifth in a continuing series of film and multimedia projects by ABS' Research Center for Scripture and Media. The four preceding videos are, "The Visit," about Mary's meeting with Elizabeth; "A Father and Two Sons," focusing on the parable of the Prodigal Son; "Out of the Tombs," about Jesus' healing of the possessed man in Mark 5.1-20; and "The Neighbor," the Good Samaritan parable from the Gospel of Luke.

The series has won awards—a Gold Special Jury award from the Houston International Film Festival for "Out of the Tombs," a Bronze Apple from the National Educational Media Network for the CD-ROM of "The Visit," among others.

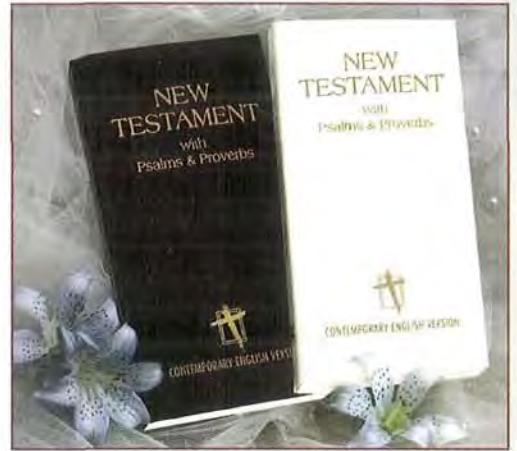
Fern stresses that these films and interactive media projects, like all ABS translations, strive to be "entirely faithful" to the original Biblical texts. The John project draws on the expertise and research of 30 scholars and specialists, she says. This is "a very different model of filmmaking." ABS doesn't hand the director a script—it's representatives help shape the film all the way through its process.

You can see that on the set of the John 20 film. Fern and consultants—Adele Reinhartz, the Rev. Jean-Pierre Ruiz, Dr. J. Ramsey Michaels,

**Jim Caviezel (right) goes
over his lines with director
Merle Worth.**



CEV: HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR ALL ITS WORTH



BY
BARCLAY
NEWMAN

A New Concept in Bible Translation

The *Contemporary English Version* (CEV) is a first among Bibles. It represents an entirely new concept in Translation. The CEV is the first and only English Bible to take seriously the words of the apostle Paul: "Faith comes by *hearing*."

Only the CEV is an audio text in print form, crafted to be read aloud without stumbling, heard without misunderstanding, and listened to with appreciation and enjoyment.

All other English translations of the Bible may be classified as traditional because they count on the reader's ability to decipher a written text. The CEV differ from these in that it considers the needs of the hearer, as well as those of the reader, who may not be familiar with traditional Bible jargon.

What is the grade level of the CEV? This is the wrong question. The translators of the CEV

were concerned primarily with the interest level of the text—one that could be read aloud by a young child and enjoyed by older children and adults alike, because of its lucid and lyrical style. As one reviewer remarked: "The CEV is clear and simple like Christ intended. It just sings to your heart and soul."

Why does the CEV "sing to your heart and soul"? Because it was crafted with careful attention to such minute details as the number of unaccented syllables in a row, the appearance of the text on the page, pronoun clarity, the emotional impact of words, the sounds of words and syllables, and measured lines in poetry.

For example, readers may stumble when challenged with either too few or too many unaccented syllables in a row: "Your teeth will be too few to do their work, and you will be blind, too." (Ecclesiastes 12.3) Ambiguous pronouns are always problematic: "A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge




in *it*, put *it* on a hyssop branch, and held *it* up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted *it*, he said, ‘*It is finished.*’” (John 19.29-30).

Some passages are unsuitable for public reading because of insensitivity to the emotional impact of language: “Saul boiled with rage at Jonathan. ‘You stupid son of a whore!’” he swore at him (1 Samuel 20.30). Unintentional vulgarisms may result because punctuation marks cannot be heard: “Whatever you do, do well.” (Ecclesiastes 9.10). And inappropriate slang expressions should scrupulously be avoided: “These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for.” (Psalm 73.7).*

In the oral reading of poetry, a reader will often stress the final word of a line and pause momentarily before going to the next, sometimes with disastrous results for the hearer:

They lie awake at night *hatching*
sinful plots.*

Especially in the poetry of *CEV*, the translators sought exactness of language and effortless economy by placing the best possible words in the best possible order and form. In this regard, compare the *CEV* with a traditional translation from the Book of Psalms [see below].

Each English translation of the Bible is, in its own right, the Word of God. Yet each translation serves to meet the needs of a different audience. In this regard, the *CEV* should be considered a *companion* volume to traditional translations of the Bible. As the translators of the *King James Version* affirmed: “Variety of translations is profitable for the finding out of the sense of Scriptures.” 

A Traditional Translation*:

Psalm 3.1-4:

O Lord, I have so many enemies;
so many are against me,
So many are saying,
“God will never rescue him!”

But you, O Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the one who lifts my head high.
I cried out to the Lord,
And he answered me from his holy
mountain.

Psalm 29.3-4:

The voice of the Lord echoes above the sea.
The God of glory thunders.
The Lord thunders over the mighty sea.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Contemporary English Version:

Psalm 3.1-4:

I have a lot of enemies, Lord.
Many fight against me and say,
“God won’t rescue you!”

But you are my shield,
and you give me victory
and great honor.

I pray to you, and you answer
from your sacred hill.

Psalm 29.3-4:

The voice of the Lord
echoes over the oceans.
The glorious Lord God
thunders above the roar
of the raging sea,
and his voice is mighty
and marvelous.

Barclay M. Newman is the Senior Translations Officer for the American Bible Society. He is based in Springfield, Mo.



* All “traditional” examples are from the *New Living Translation*.

TRUCE brings presence to h



*Nicky Cruz story
inspires another
troubled generation*

BY PETER FEUERHERD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

Nicky Cruz makes an impassioned appeal to join him on the stage at the conclusion of *Run, Baby, Run*.

Below right: A young man prays at the stage where hundreds of special ABS Scriptures were distributed.

Nicky Cruz is riding the uptown number 6 train to Harlem. It is a sweltering late afternoon in the midst of the hottest July New York has ever experienced. The air conditioning has broken down.

The train is crowded with weary workers fleeing downtown offices. Nicky, 60-years-old and dressed in a simple workingman's checkered shirt, fits in unobtrusively. But he is not returning from work. Instead he is traveling towards his own past.

That evening a youthful troupe will perform a musical of his autobiography based on his bestselling book *Run, Baby, Run*. It is Nicky's story—updated in this era of hip-hop and rap—of his conversion from Brooklyn gang leader to Christian evangelist who has preached to more than 30 million, perhaps more than any Amer-

ican other than Dr. Billy Graham.

The performance, held at New York's City College, focused on Nicky's life from his Puerto Rican childhood, where he was abused by his Satan-worshiping mother, to his gang leadership days, to his conversion through the efforts of the



cooling ot city

Rev. David Wilkerson. His early life was featured in the popular book and movie *The Cross and the Switchblade*.

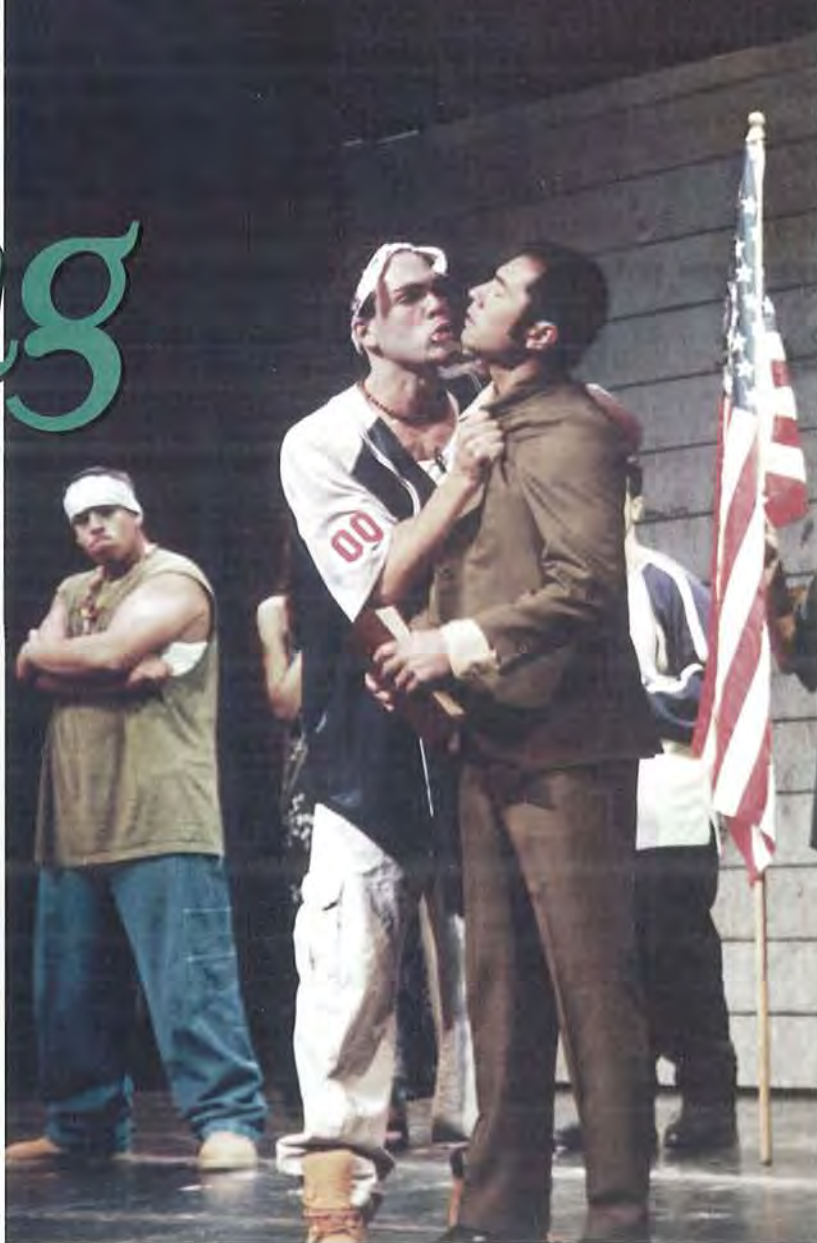
But Nicky knows he is not the star of this production, sponsored by TRUCE (To Reach Urban Children Everywhere), a branch of the Colorado Springs-based Nicky Cruz Outreach.

The star is Jesus, and after the show Nicky called upon the thousand-plus in the packed auditorium to embrace their Savior. Hundreds of young people responded, their own stories of isolation and despair resonating with the same themes articulated by Nicky. Although he is nearing the usual retirement age, he relates to what these modern American urban children go through everyday in resisting the temptations of drugs, violence, and promiscuous sex.

"The inner-city of America has been given up. Yet there is so much passion and feeling here," he says while striding through the vibrant streets of Harlem, where residents perch on chairs in the street outside their apartments in a vain effort to catch a summer breeze.

"It's like in the days of Jesus when he healed the lepers. There was life there. There is life here," he says, adding, "the preacher needs to speak to the hearts and needs of the people."

Nicky is a preacher who brings his church to the streets. His congregation extends wherever poverty, both material and spiritual, exist. He is in New York for a week; in the fall, the TRUCE ministry will move to Milwaukee after stops in



Spain and the Netherlands. In each place, young people's hunger for the Scriptures will be nourished by the American Bible Society through Nicky Cruz Outreach.

"The ABS Bible is a big hit," he says, noting the special imprint for this event titled *Urban Word*. The cover is adorned with pictures—comic-book style—depicting modern American urban life. The young people, he says, pick it up like it is an exciting novel which speaks to their experiences. And they find out that it does.

"My gang was my family," Nicky writes in an introduction to *Urban Word*. "I looked up to no one. I came out of a life of crime, violence, rage, and abuse. I was a loser, a misfit, and society found me hopeless."

Juan Mitchell, playing Nicky Cruz, threatens David Wilkerson, played by actor-director Chris Frederick.

He can see the same story being played out in the lives of many of the young people he preaches to.

Chris Frederick, the director of *Run, Baby, Run*, says that Nicky Cruz's story may have originated in the '50s, but what he went through still resonates with today's young people. The music in the show is updated—the sounds of salsa, meringue, and rap permeate the production—and the characters respond as if they are young people in the '90s, complete with gritty, street-wise dialogue.

"We want to make it real. We don't want it to be a sanitized version of the story," he says, acknowledging that some churchgoing Christians have

Hundreds of special ABS TRUCE CEV New Testaments were distributed at the altar following the dramatization.



expressed reservations about the show's harsh language, costumes, and sometimes suggestive dancing.

"Today's young people identify with it," Chris says. He says the show presents "a lot of the emotions they are going through, including loneliness and despair. In the end, it's a powerful story of redemption."

The goal is what it has always been since Nicky's preaching career began after he met David Wilkerson: to provide a sense of belonging to young people who find it too often in gangs, instead of in Christian community and their own families.

Jason Thomas, a 24-year-old cast member and Harlem native, says that the experience of being in the show has drawn the troupe together.

"It's taken us a while to get that faith and love. But we're in a place where God is going to do his thing," he says confidently.

By the end of the show, scores of young people accept Nicky's invitation to accept Jesus.

Corey Martin, 30, who plays Nicky's father in the show, proclaims that the production "is a great evangelization tool."

He adds, "At the end, young people receive Christ. They see it's like looking in a mirror. They see themselves in us. It's not about us being actors. It's about saving lives."

Once again, this time on a hot night in Harlem, Nicky's story of degradation followed by redemption has made an impact. This journey, once again into the painful past of Nicky Cruz, has been worth it. ■

FOR THE RECORD

100 YEARS AGO

Evangelizing a New American Empire

As America looked towards a new century in 1899, it was grappling with its emergence as a new colonial power after its victory over the Spanish empire the previous year.

The American Bible Society experienced the same struggle as the wider society.

Its agent in the newly-acquired Puerto Rico wondered about the impact Americans would have on the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island.

"The power of sin is already at work," the Rev. Andrew J. McKim wrote in the March 1899 *Record*. He decried the presence of American traders coming to the island to deal in whiskey and gambling.

The editors of the *Record* offered support for Mr. McKim's program of Bible promotion. They added, "Cuba, Porto Rico [sic], and the Philippines have created new obligations for American Christendom—obligations which we all must share."

50 YEARS AGO

General Pleads for Bibles for Japan

The October 1949 *Record* reported on a broadcast that summer presented by commentator Lowell Thomas. Mr. Thomas described a meeting he had with Gen. Douglas MacArthur, head of the American occupation force in Tokyo. The general, said Mr. Thomas, had religion on his mind.

"He said that when they lost the war the Japanese people lost faith in their religions, Shintoism and Buddhism, leaving a religious vacuum. What an opportunity for Christianity to move in!"

Gen. MacArthur asked for a million Japanese Bibles for 1949 and increases for each subsequent year.

Soon after the broadcast, Mr. Lowell's listeners sent ABS \$600 to pay for Japanese Bible distribution. These gifts came from people who knew that the American Bible Society was the source of supply for Japanese Bibles. ABS established a special fund earmarked for the project. ■



Lowell Thomas

Windows



and the Rev. John David Larson—cluster just behind the director, Merle Worth. In between takes, she discusses subtleties of the text: How should it be delivered? Should the words be spoken more slowly?

The man who speaks to the camera is Jim Caviezel, a rising actor in Hollywood. He played a large role in “The Thin Red Line,” a movie about the battle for Guadalcanal during



ABS consultants Fern Lee Hagedorn, Adele Reinhartz, the Rev. Jean-Pierre Ruiz, and the Rev. John David Larson review a script for the filming of the 20th chapter of the Gospel of John.

World War II. You can see him in other films soon. He is focused and intense. Before his first take, he stretches and does push-ups inside the storefront church. It’s a hot, humid day, and the church is warm, despite three large fans and cold air pumped from an air conditioner. As the crew prepares for the take, a production assistant shuts off the fans. It gets warmer quickly.

“Lock it up,” says Carl Verna, the assistant director, speaking into his headset microphone. The set goes quiet. “Speed,” says soundman Roger Phenix—his audiotape is rolling and ready.

Action. Mr. Caviezel tells the story of Mary meeting the risen Jesus. Again. And again. With

subtle variations in rhythm and intonation, always with conviction. He is compelling to watch. His telling of the tale is serious, passionate. As he speaks, the camera pulls back. Director Merle Worth watches through a video monitor, her arms moving like a conductor, matching the flow of Mr. Caviezel’s voice. She smiles, relishing her collaboration with a fellow artist.

Between takes, the director confers with the ABS consultants, and then offers suggestions to Mr. Caviezel: The phrase “Jesus standing there,” she says, “should pour like water.”

“I want to feel what a miraculous thing it is to see the angels.” She tells Mr. Caviezel that the angels “know so much more” than Mary does.

When Mr. Caviezel finishes a series of takes, Ms. Worth says, “It’s hard to be an actor, especially a brilliant one.”

One of the people Ms. Worth consults with during breaks holds a well-worn Greek New Testament. He is J. Ramsey Michaels, and explains an aim of this new translation as “trying to recover the oral stage of the gospel story.” A specialist in the Gospel of John, he taught at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Southwest Missouri State University.

Professor Michaels speaks of operating in two separate worlds: that of Biblical scholarship and media production. By bringing these together, he sees great promise in these new translations. It’s “a great step forward,” he says. 📖



Actor Jim Caviezel prepares for a take.

In the foreground, director Merle Worth reviews a take on video with 1st Assistant Director Carl Verna. Looking on from behind them are, from left, the Rev. Jean-Pierre Ruiz, Adele Reinhartz, Dr. J. Ramsey Michaels, Fern Lee Hagedorn, and the Rev. John David Larson.



Seeing the Power of the Word

ABS ties go way back for the Rev. Stephen N. Short, Sr. He was offering Bibles to his high school classmates in Washington, D.C., more than 40 years ago—and they still talk about it. Affordable ABS Scriptures made that outreach possible.

From that active beginning, Stephen, who serves as the Pentecostal chaplain at Howard University, as well as a chaplain to Washington police officers and firefighters, has found ABS a rich resource. About 10 years ago, when he was a pastor, a group of young unchurched people in his congregation asked for help. They found older Bible translations difficult to understand, and they felt excluded from the worship.

At the time, Stephen was leading a campus fellowship group at Howard University, an interdenominational gathering which had embraced ABS' *Today's English Version* (TEV).

Stephen's congregation made the TEV its text Bible, which made the unchurched young people "able to go to the Scriptures for themselves and make sense of them," he says. "It had the net result,"

Stephen says, "of transforming my life, my ministry, my congregation."

When an ABS representative came to Howard University to address a group of chaplains,

Stephen felt he had "an outstanding debt to pay" to the Society. He invited his wife, Betty Landcaster-Short, to the presentation. The speaker talked about building partnerships to extend outreach, especially in inner cities. "That really excited me," she said, because she had been working with people of many different backgrounds and denominations in campus ministry at Howard University.

After that meeting, Betty, who is the director of religious education at Michigan Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), started to volunteer for ABS. She has seen the remarkable impact of the *Contemporary English Version* (CEV). The first year that translation was available, she offered it to students at Howard University.

After a chapel service that year, two young men left with copies of the CEV. They walked down a hill from the chapel and stood in a plaza, while Betty watched. "They began right there discussing and reading, and pointing out things to one another." She adds, "They stood there just amazed by the Scripture, how the Scripture just jumped out at them."

Betty says that students like the designs of new ABS resources. These new Scriptures make it easier for African-Americans to identify with people in the Bible. Students find it easy to share these Scriptures with friends, Betty says.

The Shorts' outreach extends to neighbors, too—they have a group of 6-to-12-year-olds who visit their home. Betty says, "They just want to read the Bible"—the CEV Bible. The Shorts gave the children Bibles, and some of them were passed on to relatives, who were grateful. When parents and guardians visited the Shorts, they gave their blessing for the youngsters to visit anytime. ■



Rev. Stephen N. Short, Sr. and his wife Betty Landcaster-Short

VOLUNTEER AWARD OF MERIT

Following in her mother's footsteps, Judy Barclay has served with the Volunteer Ministries Department of the American Bible Society since 1982. With a heart for ministry, Judy finds herself visiting hospitals and nursing homes to share Scripture booklets and to deliver altar flowers to others.

Judy Barclay fulfills her commitment to the ministry of the Society against overwhelming odds. Having been diagnosed with a brain tumor, Judy was forced to undergo surgery on two separate occasions. "It has been a painful journey," says Judy.



JUDY BARCLAY

"I spent 21 days in the hospital recovering from these operations," she notes. Despite these challenges, however, Judy is anxious to resume her visits to the nursing homes and the hospitals where she uses the opportunity to tell others that the "Lord has been on her side."

When asked about her favorite area of ministry, Judy responds, "hosting Bible Sunday at Cross of Life Lutheran Church," near her home in Alpharetta, Ga. For the past 10 years, Judy has worked to make the Bible Sunday event a success in her church. She enlists the help of her pastor, along with 20 other volunteers, and together they make posters for the hallway of her church to celebrate this day. As part of her ministry, she distributes Bibles for converts and children entering the third grade.

It is a great blessing to have Judy Barclay as a partner in Volunteer Ministries. She is a devoted woman of God. The American Bible Society is happy to grant her a Volunteer Award of Merit Certificate. ■

—Patricia Sinclair

Using Technology to Present God's Word

Mildred M. Berg taught young people in Sunday school for many years. Teaching taught her the importance of reaching children with Scriptures that hold their attention—whether via video, print, or the Internet.

She's happy that ABS places such emphasis on using modern technology to offer the Scriptures to both young and old.

Miss Berg came to join the Board of Trustees through her work at a bank with the late Edmund F. Wagner, who served as president of ABS from 1967 to 1985. Mr. Wagner had a deep love for ABS, a love that Miss Berg came to share.

Joining the Board in 1978, Miss Berg serves on the Personnel, Finance and Administration, and National and International Partnerships and Grants committees. She loves working with "so many fine minds" on the Board.

ABS has "moved far ahead" under the leadership of Dr. Eugene B. Habecker, she says, and she sees "so much life and energy" in the staff. There's a "very good synergy" between the staff and the board, she says.

From her experience with young people, she is very glad that ABS' leaders "have come to recognize the technological climate of today," and the need to offer the Scriptures through new media.

Miss Berg sees a great opportunity to introduce our young people to Scripture materials, particularly to those younger than 12. She notes that today's youngsters are especially fascinated by visual media.

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, she attends Ascension Lutheran Church in Boynton Beach, Fla. Miss Berg has found great comfort in times of loss and difficulty in Paul's words: "Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!" (Romans 8.39, CEV) ■



MILDRED M. BERG

Bible Sunday Brings God's Word to the World

On Nov. 21,
churches will
focus on 'Making
the Master Smile'

The theme for this year's Bible Sunday—scheduled in most churches for Nov. 21—will focus on the theme of “Making the Master Smile.” On that day, American Christians will be urged to contribute to the work of Bible societies in Africa, Central America and Yugoslavia.

The American Bible Society has distributed sample Scripture lessons, youth-oriented cartoons, and a “Seven Day Devotional Guide” to pastors in support of this year's Bible Sunday.

“Your participation in Bible Sunday '99 will increase your congregation's awareness of Bible work around the world ... stress the importance of studying God's Word ... and highlight the need for Scripture distribution across the globe,” Eugene B. Habecker, president of ABS, wrote to pastors in a recent letter.

Dr. Habecker noted that last year's Bible Sunday generated a large positive response. Noted one church leader, “It is a great way to emphasize that God's Word is our great heritage, and will be ours forever.”

To support Bible Sunday, churches are urged to:

- Reserve 10 percent of that Sunday's offering to purchase Scripture for prisoners in their areas;
- Begin a reading program, for adults and children, featuring the *Contemporary English Version* (CEV) Bible;

sion (CEV) Bible;

- Consider implementing a Bible reading marathon, both to raise awareness of the Bible and to serve as a means of fund raising for Bible distribution projects, and;
- Encourage children in churches to tell, in their own words, about people around the world who long for God's Word.

The three-region focus in this year's Bible Sunday is intended to meet the needs for Scripture in particularly hard-pressed areas. In Yugoslavia, funds are needed to restore the Bible society complex destroyed in the recent war there.

In Central America, last year's Hurricane Mitch wreaked havoc on development efforts. There is a need for Scriptures to replace those lost in the natural disaster and to provide a Portion on spiritual healing to assist Christians who are still suffering from emotional pain caused by the loss of property and loved ones.

The Bible Society of South Africa (BSSA) is planning to distribute Bible reading agendas in all 11 official languages there. BSSA is also promoting the Year 2000 as its “Year of the Bible,” devoted to encouraging South Africans to spend 10 minutes a day on Scripture reading. ■



More information on how your church can participate in Bible Sunday can be obtained by calling 1-800-4-SUNDAY.

The Quiché people of Guatemala give thanks to God for a Bible produced in their own language. (UBS photo)



A Smart Way to Give to the Lord's Work

A smart way to give to the American Bible Society is when you contribute stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other investment assets that have risen in value since you acquired them.

HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?

Friends who give highly appreciated investment assets to the American Bible Society receive a double tax benefit: They can deduct the current fair market value of the assets, not the price they paid originally, and they save again by avoiding all taxes on their "paper profit."

EXAMPLE: Margaret bought stock in 1985 for \$1,000 that now is worth \$5,000. If Margaret contributes the stock instead of writing a check, ABS receives \$5,000 – the fair market value of the stock – and she receives a \$5,000 charitable deduction on her next income tax return, saving \$1,550 in her 31% tax bracket. Furthermore, she avoids \$800 in capital gains taxes that would come due whenever she sold the stock. Result? Tax savings let Margaret make a \$5,000 gift to ABS at a cost of just \$2,650, allowing her to magnify her support . . . and personal satisfaction.



TIPS FOR GIVING:

- Give investments in which you have a large "paper profit."
- Be sure you've owned the investment more than one year.
- Call our office for step-by-step instructions on how to proceed.
- Send for our free brochure, "Before You Sell: The Benefits of Giving Appreciated Property."

- YES**, I'm interested in learning more about the benefits of a gift of appreciated assets. Please send me your brochure "Before You Sell: The Benefits of Giving Appreciated Property."
- Please have an ABS Representative contact me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone() _____ Date of Birth _____

1099RECAD



American Bible Society • Major & Planned Gift Programs • 1865 Broadway • New York, NY 10023-7505
Telephone 1-800-820-6227 • www.americanbible.org



Dorothy Murray

BY PETER
FEUERHERD

Author Reflects on Life's Struggles

Dorothy Murray, 84, has lived a number of roles: wife, mother, businesswoman, community activist, church leader. Her role as a writer has provided context for her many other roles, coloring them with meaning.

She has published two books. One was about her mentally-retarded son, Steve, born 54 years ago, who resides with her at a retirement home in Roanoke, Va. The other was a biography of Anna Beahm Mow, the late Church of the Brethren missionary in India, seminary professor, and dynamic lecturer.

But Mrs. Murray's most important work may be what remains unpublished. She is now working on a memoir focusing on her own struggles. And they have been legion, as they have for many octogenarians who survived the bulk of this turbulent century.

When Mrs. Murray was 18-years-old, her father died. At the height of the Great Depression, she went to work in a candy factory for 13 cents an hour to help support her mother and two younger sisters. As a young mother, she became a community activist, helping to establish a local chapter of the National Association for Retarded Citizens. The book also tells about her work as a co-owner, with her late husband Max and members of his family, of the Murray Apple Juice Company.

"I did it for my five grandchildren more than for anyone else," she describes her latest writing project. "I wanted them to know what enabled me to survive some rather dismaying parts of my life. It's a statement of my own faith and about the things that gave me strength."

Much of that memoir focuses on her efforts to secure a decent future for Steve, the third of her four children. Her book—*This Is Steve's Story*—

stayed in print for nearly two decades and became a source of inspiration for parents around the country coping with the struggle of raising retarded children.

"There were no services and little help for parents," she recalled about the era when Steve was born and how parents of the retarded struggled with promoting public awareness about the condition.

Steve—described by his mother as possessing the mental capacity of a pre-teen boy—has worked for years at the family-owned juice company. At the retirement home, he regularly entertains the residents with his violin playing. "He's made enough money to take care of himself," Mrs. Murray says, adding that "he does very well but he has to have support."

Much of what has helped Mrs. Murray to survive has revolved around her religious faith. At the age of 70, she took a four-year course in theology inspired by her son Andrew, a Church of the Brethren minister and theologian in Pennsylvania. "I needed to look at life from his angle," she says, her mother's role never far removed from her personal insight.

Theology and the Bible have always been an important part of her life. Her father was a minister and her mother a Sunday School teacher. Today, Mrs. Murray reads the Psalms whenever she seeks consolation during difficult times.

To put her faith in the Bible into action, she owns several gift annuities from the American Bible Society and has long been a supporter of the Society's mission.

If you are interested in including ABS in your will, please call the Major & Planned Gift Programs at 1-800-820-6227. ■

■ WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

The battle over who Jesus is has re-ignited as Christians approach the next millennium, reports the *Detroit Free Press* in an extensive article depicting various theological and scholarly views about the central figure of the New Testament. The Rev. N.T. Wright, an Anglican scholar, says that the debate is a healthy one. "God wants each person to keep raising that central question: who is Jesus for me?" Mr. Wright, an Englishman, sees the American interest in the subject as evidence of how much an impact Christian faith has in this country. "In the States, people still seem to feel that questions about Jesus really are a lightning rod, somehow freighted with all sorts of questions about the future of our universe," says Mr. Wright.

■ WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

"Is Life Unfair?" is a question raised by *New York Times* columnist William Safire in light of the tragic death of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, and sister-in-law. There is no "Kennedy curse," opines the columnist, who says the answer to such tragedies may lie in the Biblical Book of Job. That book, Mr. Safire wrote, "teaches that God does not micro-manage the universe, and that free-willed human beings are responsible for actions and injustices. That's why life is unfair."

■ ENVY IN GOTHAM

Newsday columnist Bill Reel notes that St. Paul might have had something to say about today's envious Manhattanites. According to a recent article in *New York* magazine, Gotham couples earning more than \$100,000 are still envious of their neighbors who make far more. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans—"the Manhattanites of their time," notes Reel—condemned envy in the same tones he decried sexual immorality, murder, strife, and other sins. "You can wear only one suit of clothes, live under one roof, ride in one car at a time. I've heard that homily for

years and always believed it. But it takes the grace of God to accept it, especially in these money-driven days," Reel concludes.

■ PEDALING FOR SCRIPTURE

The *Chronicle-Independent* of Camden, S.C., recently reported on Charlotte Reicks and Evelyn Logan, the "Bicycling Grannies," who visited Camden as part of their 10,000-mile-tour to promote the *Year of the Bible* for the American Bible Society. They had traveled from Santa Monica, Calif., all the way to Maine and were on their way to Florida when they stopped in South Carolina.

■ COUNTRY MUSIC GOES BIBLICAL

"Hey y'all, my name's T. Graham Brown, and I'm an alcoholic." So begins one of 16 recorded messages by seven country music stars who speak of the power of the Bible in their lives. These testimonies, sponsored by the American Bible Society, are playing on country music stations across the nation.

In the announcements, country music stars Ricky Skaggs, James Bonamy, Loretta Lynn, Charlie Daniels, Ty Herndon, Glenn Campbell and Mr. Brown talk about the treasure they find within the Bible's pages.

In his 60-second witness, Mr. Brown describes how he drank for 25 years. "But with the love of my wife and son, and the help of God, I was able to finally lay it down," he says.

Mr. Brown cites Romans 3.23: "all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God." He recognizes the need for forgiveness. "God got me through a real struggle, and it can work for you, too."

Miss Lynn says she read the Scriptures on her bus during concert tours. She calls the Bible, "a letter to us to tell us what to do."

Ty Herndon says, "There are so many answers here [in the Bible] to whatever you might be going through." ■



ABS DISTRIBUTION
INCREASES BY 23%

FISCAL YEAR 1998-99:

BIBLES	4.34 MILLION
NEW TESTAMENTS	10.3 MILLION
PORTIONS	6.5 MILLION
SELECTIONS	56.5 MILLION
TOTAL	77,632,315

FISCAL YEAR 1997-98:

BIBLES	3.48 MILLION
NEW TESTAMENTS	11.025 MILLION
PORTIONS	892,000
SELECTIONS	47.8 MILLION
TOTAL	63,211,977

Ricky Skaggs



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

■ AUSTRALIA

In the outback of this roughly U.S.-sized country, Laurie Edwards is known as the "Flying Bibleman." He pilots a plane owned by the Bible Society of Australia and flies it to outposts with odd-sounding names such as Tommy Policeman Lagoon, Rum Jungle, Alligator River, and Big Sunday.

Not only does he bring the Word of God, he is also delivering the cultural continuity of literature translated into the native tongues of the aboriginal peoples he serves.

In a concrete way, he is not only saving souls, he is doing his bit to preserve the culture of aboriginal Australia. He covers nearly 70 percent of the sparsely-populated regions of the country, providing aboriginal Christians with

the Word of God in their own tongues. Many of his trips are coordinated by his wife, Gillian, who also works for BSA.

BSA has completed a New Testament translation in Kriol, one of the more popular aboriginal languages spoken by the people who have lived in Australia for centuries before the first English settlers arrived there.

There is little literature in Kriol and other aboriginal lan-

guages. The people who speak those tongues enjoy an oral, not a written tradition. But the Scriptures in the native tongue, combined with *Contemporary English Version* Bibles for those who are comfortable in Australia's principal language, are important, Mr. Edwards said in a recent interview during a visit to American Bible Society headquarters in New York.

Laurie Edwards, in front of his plane, displays Bible Society in Australia materials in aboriginal languages. At right, he provides Bible materials at an airport bookshop at Boieu Island and converses with the Rev. Edmund Blanket, an aboriginal Christian leader.



"I feel strongly that God really does speak to them in their own heart language," he said. Without the Scriptures, he said, the aboriginal languages may well have died out by now because little is being translated into those languages.

■ GHANA

The Bible Society here is making an impact via a radio program which transmits the Scriptures to members of the Ashanti tribe. In the process, it has garnered respect from Muslims here, according to Theo Asare of the Bible Society of Ghana.

"It's not a preacher trying to tell them anything," he says about the program, which features tapes of the Scriptures in the Ashanti language. "The Muslims respect Jesus and God ... the Bible tapes are not someone's theories or

doctrine. It's just word-for-word from the Bible."

He adds, as it is in many countries, "It's difficult for Christians here to preach to Muslims. But when Muslims listen to the Bible tapes in their own language, it piques their interest." Some local Muslims have taken tapes of the broadcast to their mosques for group study.

According to Theo, the translation of the Bible into African languages is an advantage in the development of Christianity. He noted that the Koran, the holy book of Islam, is available, by contrast, only in Arabic.

"There is a wisdom in translating the Bible into different languages," he says, adding that "the Muslims do not have that advantage because the Koran is not allowed to be translated."

■ **EGYPT**

For the first time in 134 years, there is a new typesetting of the most popular Arabic Bible—the Van Dyck version. The Arabic Bible is being produced by the Bible Society in Egypt.

Sales of the new version have surpassed expectations. In Egypt the Van Dyck version is the official Bible of both the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Protestant churches, so it has been widely distributed and accepted.

■ **GREAT BRITAIN**

Fergus Macdonald, president of the United Bible Societies in Reading, England, notes that Christians have learned through the Kosovar refugee crisis that distributing Scripture should be done in a culturally-sensitive way.

In a letter to Bible societies throughout the world, Fergus raised the question: "Is Scripture distribution always appropriate?" He acknowledged that "to ask such a question sounds like a Bible society heresy!"

Citing Colossians 4.5-6, Fergus wrote that Scriptures should be distributed in a way sensitive to the needs of its recipients.

In the Kosovar camps during the recent NATO-Serbia war, most of the refugees were Muslims fleeing an area attacked by those who called themselves Christians.

"To distribute Scriptures indiscriminately to people who are traumatized by what they regard as 'Christian' oppression, will probably alienate rather than reconcile the recipients," Fergus wrote.

He encouraged Christians to heal the physical and spiritual wounds of the afflicted, much like Jesus did. That way, he emphasized, Christians can earn credibility and support for the lessons of Scripture among non-Christians.

■ **CONGO**

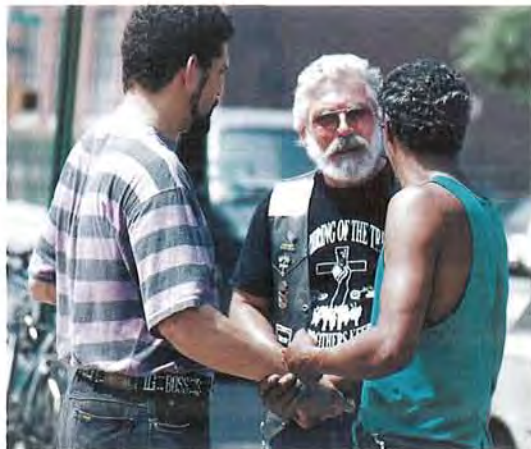
Esaie Diandaga, an accountant for the Bible Society here, has been held for months by anti-government rebels in the south of the country. A shop assistant for the Bible Society in Congo was also held and released a few months ago. Efforts to secure Mr. Diandaga's release continue along with wider negotiations to end the conflict in the Congo. 📖



British television personality Diane-Louise Jordan and Alan Lowther, a member of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association, get ready to race up the stage at the recent Open Book launch held in Esher, England. The Scripture-promotion event was part of the Christian Resources Exhibition.

No lazy, hazy Summertime for ABS

The American Bible Society stepped up its efforts at outreach this past summer. At right, a counselor talks with neighborhood residents at the Convoy of Hope caravan in New York City's Harlem, an effort which brought ABS-supplied Scriptures and food to area residents. Below, a dancer performs at the "Jesus at the Beach" rally in Ocean City, Md., sponsored by Sun Spot Ministries, an event which also featured ABS Scriptures. The event at the beach resort featured music and preaching by Gary Steger. (Photos by Richard Lord in New York and Jim Genovese in Ocean City)



NATIONAL NEWS

■ NEW YORK


The American Bible Society increased its Scripture distribution dramatically over the past year, according to figures compiled at Bible House in Manhattan.

In the 1998-99 fiscal year, ABS distributed 4.34 million Bibles, 10.3 million New Testaments, 6.5 million Portions, and 56.5 million selections. The total—77,632,315—represents a 23 percent increase over the amount from the year before. [See chart on page 27 for more details].

■ MISSOURI

American Bible Society President Eugene Haberger dedicated the new Springfield, Mo., office of the Society July 12.

The Springfield office, under the direction of Dr. Robert Hodgson, Jr., brings together seven local staffers, some of whom had previously worked out of home offices. The office brings together three focuses of ABS work: print translations, the Research Center for Scripture and Media, and development.

The office, located in the Hammons Tower (the tallest building in Missouri), also serves as a magnet for local church leaders who come there for Scripture materials. According to Dr. Hodgson, the office has considerably boosted the visibility of ABS in Southwest Missouri. 



Bible Brings Drug Addict to Christ

Tavee Sak, now a driver with the Thailand Bible Society, was a rebellious, drug-addicted 20-year-old when he first heard the gospel. "I wanted to stop taking drugs, but I couldn't find a way," Tavee said.

A friend with whom he played soccer invited Tavee to a meeting to talk about Jesus.

"The only thing I knew about Jesus was that He was the religious leader of the Christian community," Tavee recalled. "The preacher said that if we invite Jesus into our lives, He can help solve our problems, so I decided to do that, only to test if what I heard was true."

He spent the next two months reading the Thai Bible that his friend gave him. He was in-

spired by the words in 2 Corinthians 5.17: "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person." (*Contemporary English Version.*)

He continued to attend church. "I was impressed by the love of the people there," he said.

After attending a prayer service for people with addiction problems, Tavee stopped abusing drugs. "People prayed for me, and I never had a desire for drugs again," he said.

His parents were happy to see changes in his life, but after a brother and two sisters (he has a total of nine siblings) also became Christians, he was ordered out of the family home. These days he is allowed to visit, and he prays that one day his parents will understand his Christian beliefs. ■

Your October gift will bring Bibles to people in Russia, and a November gift will provide Scriptures for India. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below, or write:
**American Bible Society
 Bible-a-Month Club
 1865 Broadway
 New York, NY
 10023-7505**

Half the World Is Waiting!



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.

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.



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 _____

10299RECO



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.

PLEASE PRAY

NOVEMBER 1999

- 1 Revelation 4.1-11
- 2 Revelation 5.1-14
- 3 Psalm 100
- 4 Psalm 104
- 5 Psalm 105
- 6 Psalm 111

SUNDAY

- 7 Psalm 113
- 8 Psalm 116
- 9 Psalm 118
- 10 Psalm 122
- 11 Psalm 135
- 12 Psalm 138
- 13 1 Chronicles 16.7-36

SUNDAY

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

BIBLE SUNDAY

- 21 Psalm 8
- 22 Exodus 15.1-21
- 23 1 Samuel 2.1-10
- 24 Nehemiah 12.27-43

THANKSGIVING DAY

- 25 Psalm 65
 - 26 Psalm 66
 - 27 Psalm 67
- FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- 28 Isaiah 63.7-14
 - 29 Isaiah 12.1-6
 - 30 Psalm 24

DECEMBER 1999

- 1 Nehemiah 8.1-12
- 2 Amos 9.11-15
- 3 Zephaniah 3.14-20
- 4 Zechariah 9.9-17

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 5 Mark 1.1-15
- 6 Psalm 97
- 7 Psalm 126
- 8 Isaiah 11.1-9
- 9 Isaiah 60.1-7
- 10 Isaiah 60.8-16
- 11 Isaiah 60.17-22

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 12 Isaiah 61.1-11
- 13 Jeremiah 33.1-13
- 14 Jeremiah 33.14-26
- 15 2 Samuel 7.1-17
- 16 2 Samuel 7.18-29
- 17 Psalm 89.1-18
- 18 Psalm 89.19-37

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 19 Luke 1.1-25
- 20 Luke 1.26-38
- 21 Luke 1.39-56
- 22 Luke 1.57-66
- 23 Luke 1.67-80
- 24 Luke 2.1-20

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 25 John 1.1-18
- SUNDAY
- 26 Acts 7.54-60
 - 27 Hebrews 1.1-14
 - 28 Hebrews 2.1-18
 - 29 Hebrews 12.1-13
 - 30 Hebrews 12.14-29
 - 31 Hebrews 13.1-21

*NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK
15 NOVEMBER 23-28, 1999

The American Bible Society—As ABS prepares to enter the new millennium, may it continue to find ways to make the Scriptures a greater force in society through the development of new presentations of the Bible in various media forms and outreach to those seeking the Christian message. [See pages 4, 5, 6, and 7]

African American Christians—May the ABS Jubilee Bible provide encouragement and support for a people who have come so far by faith.

Young people—Pray that American young people, especially those in difficult family circumstances, will eschew violence and discover their God-given dignity. [See pages 10, 11, and 12]

Scripture readers—That lovers of Scripture will continue their exploration of God's word through the accessibility offered in the *Contemporary English Version* published by the American Bible Society. [See pages 13 and 14]

The people of the Congo—May the people of the central African country afflicted with discord find a means to achieve peaceful reconciliation and inspiration from the work of the Bible Society there. [See pages 22 and 23]

Students—That as a new school year begins, students will thirst for the Word of God as well as developing the social and intellectual skills necessary to flourish in this world. 📖

I N M E M O R I A M

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

MR. & MRS. THEODORE
ANDERSON
*Given by: The Rev. & Mrs.
Howard H. Schaar*

FRED W. BAUMEISTER
*Given by: Mrs. Eleanor B.
Baumeister*

MY HUSBAND,
JOSEPH J. BABIS
Given by: Mrs. Joseph J. Babis

MY WIFE, VADA H. BERRIAN
Given by: Mr. Ira I. Berrian

MY DAUGHTER,
VIRGINIA PULIS BEZUYEN
Given by: Mr. John L. Pulis

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

MY HUSBAND, CHARLES
BYERS
AND MY SON, DAVID BYERS
Given by: Mrs. Betty Byers

JAMES CHARBONNIER
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Paul A.
Steiner*

MELROSE COLEMAN
Given by: Mr. Sigurd F. Bryan

JEFFERSON LEE COLLINS, JR.
Given by: Mr. William F. Collins

FRANCES COULTER
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Joe
Brunner*

FRANCES COULTER
Given by: Family & Friends

MY WIFE, WANDA CRAMER
Given by: Mr. Roy E. Cramer

THE REV. DELBERT E. CRESS
*Given by: Duane & Farry Cress
& Family, Dean & Joyce Hoobler
and Becky Riechert*

MY HUSBAND,
CLOYD L. "SONNY" CULVER
*Given by: Mrs. Eleanor Lyons
Culver*

MY HUSBAND,
MICHAEL J. DALY
Given by: Mrs. Vickie L. Daly

WENDY DAVIDSON
Given by: Mr. Gordon Davidson

MY MOTHER,
ROMA H. DEOGRACIAS
*Given by: Mr. William
DeoGracias*

SIDNEY DORIAN
Given by: Mr. Arthur B. Clark

MY PARENTS, DANIEL C. &
JUANITA DRUMMOND
Given by: Mrs. Sue D. Riddle

NANCY R. DUGGER
Given by: Mrs. Angie C. Myers

MY PARENTS,
GEORGE & LEAH ECKROTH
Given by: Mrs. Betty J. Haas

ROBERT L. EDENFIELD
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Spencer
Overholser*

OUR SON,
JEFFREY SCOTT EDWARDS
*Given by: Malcolm & Lynda
Edwards*

MY MOTHER,
OLGA I. EDWARDS
Given by: Mrs. Jane E. Mangold

RAYMOND E. ERHARDT
*Given by: Mr. Thomas Poole &
Family*

HAROLD H. EVANS, M.D.
*Given by: Dr. & Mrs. David N.
Mikhail*

EMILY ELAINE FAUGHT
*Given by: Miss Maria A.
Overmyer*

DOROTHY FOSTER
Given by: Miss Karen Waller

MY PARENTS, THE REV. &
MRS. A. H. GALLMEIER
Given by: Miss Ruth Gallmeier

MARTHA E. GERTH
*Given by: The Estate of Martha
E. Gerth*

KATHERINE S. GORMAN
*Given by: Mr. Kingsley Gorman,
Jr.*

DR. ERNEST HANCOCK
*Given by: The Martha Franks
WMU of the Faulks Baptist
Church*

MY MOTHER,
IRENE LOUISE HELBERG
Given by: Mr. Gordon Helberg

MY HUSBAND,
CAPTAIN WALTER C.
HITCHENS, CHC USN
*Given by: Mrs. Margaret R.
Winner*

MY HUSBAND,
DR. CHARLES L. HOGUE
Given by: Mrs. Barbara J. Hogue

ALBERT W. JESCHKE
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Eric D.
Kuhn*

JONATHAN MATHERS
Given by: Mrs. Linda L. Mathers

LORENE NAPIER
*Given by: Ray & Lavonne
Koenig*

MY SISTER,
LENORE E. K. NELSON
Given by: Mr. Theron G. Nelson

MY PARENTS
*Given by: Ms. Rosalyn E.
Schoggen*

DONALD PEOT
*Given by: Bonnie & Tommy
Worley*

MY WIFE,
DOROTHY PICKERING
Given by: Mr. David E. Pickering

GENE REEL
Given by: Miss Ella J. Wells

PATSY & MARY RICHARDELLA
Given by: Gloria & Mike Croft

MY HUSBAND, JOHN RIWITIS
Given by: Mrs. Martha Riwitis

ANNA SAREM
Given by: Mr. Mark Nygard

LARRY SIMMONS
Given by: Miss Nancy C. Bartlett

DUANE W. SMITH
Given by: Mrs. Ray M. Smith

MR. & MRS. HARLEY SPLEAR
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Clayton S.
Pratt*

MS. ROSE SPURLOCK
Given by: Mr. William A. Bonner

OUR PARENTS,
AGNES & GODFREY STRAUBE
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Eddie
Harms*

JOHN TAYLOR
*Given by: The Men's Bible Class
of the United Methodist Church*

MY FATHER,
SHIELDS A. TOWRY
AND MY GRANDMOTHER,
MAGGIE GLOVER TOWRY
*Given by: Mrs. Geraldine
Templeton*

RICHARD & FLORENCE
VORNHOLT
Given by: Miss Doris Skillman

ELOISE WANDA
Given by: Mrs. R. E. Baldwin

RICHARD WEST
Given by: Mr. Mack V. Colt

MY BROTHER,
FREDERIC A. YORK
Given by: Mr. Sheldon York

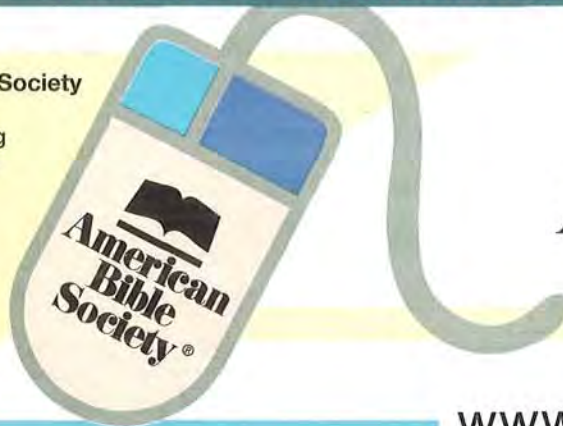
*Memorials of \$100 or more for one individual or family
unit will be published in the ABS Record. For further
details about the memorial program, please write to: Donor
Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New
York, NY 10023-7505.*

The Word of God is now available to everyone...online!

**Visit the American Bible Society
website for:**

- The Daily Scripture Reading
- Searchable Bible Research publications
- The Online Gallery of Biblical Art
- Search the Bible
- The Bible Learning Center
- Our online Scripture catalogs
- ...plus much more!

Come and pay us a visit!



**American
Bible
Society®**

www.americanbible.org