

LIVES CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Record

SPRING 2022

**You
helped
me hear
God's
voice!**

**Oral Bible translations
are changing lives in
Guatemala.**

PAGE 16



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

**“Whoever follows me will have
the light of life and will never
walk in darkness.”**

📖 JOHN 8:12



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ABOUT THE COVER

This grateful young woman speaks the Mam Todos Santos language in rural Guatemala. Thanks to your prayers and support, humble Guatemalan farmers have become trained Bible translators. Even though they can't read Hebrew, Greek, or Spanish, the oral Bible that they are translating is just as accurate as the one you use every day. Now God's spoken Word is reaching waiting people in record time thanks to this groundbreaking translation project. Praise the Lord!

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

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Lord, Do It Again in Our Time

A message from Robert L. Briggs, American Bible Society President and CEO

Dear Friends,

This year, the Spirit has prompted me to invoke a bold prayer over our ministry, our nation, and our church partners around the globe. The prayer comes from Habakkuk 3:2a, where the prophet cries out:

“O LORD, I have heard of what you have done, and I am filled with awe. Now do again in our times the great deeds you used to do.”

When we read the Bible and when we study history, we celebrate the great deeds that God accomplished for his people in the past. This infuses our prayers with confidence that the Lord is able to help us meet the great challenges of our own day.

Lord, do it again in our time!

This issue of Record reminds me that God delights to answer bold prayers like this. Whether it's through an innovative Bible translation project in Guatemala, a trauma healing ministry bringing hope to war-torn Armenia, or just an old-fashioned pocket New Testament, God is doing wondrous new works in our day. I hope you see that God is using *your* gifts and *your* prayers to accomplish these great deeds. Thank you for your generous faith.

May the testimonies in this magazine be fuel for your bold prayers as well. We serve an awesome God who does great things—yesterday, today, and forever!

Yours in Christ,

Robert L. Briggs

P.S. As you celebrate the Easter season, I hope you'll take a moment to thank the Lord for the miracles he is still doing today. Thank you for giving so generously to see God's Word change lives.

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God's Word Heals Hearts in War-Torn Armenia

COVER PHOTO: Ana Lisbeth Salazar de Ramirez; OPENING PHOTO: Contributed by United Bible Societies partners

PHOTO CREDITS: Ana Lisbeth Salazar de Ramirez; Getty Images

WAR AND PEACE IN ARMENIA

When war and sickness ravaged Armenia, you cared for wounded hearts with the healing balm of the Bible.

By Jack Newman

First came the pandemic. Then came the war.

For the people of Armenia, the battle against COVID-19 was crippling. The outbreak of war with Azerbaijan was like pouring gasoline on a fire.

“The church was not ready to serve during the pandemic,” says Bible Society of Armenia’s Marianna Apresyan. “Then something worse happened, something we haven’t seen in our worst dreams. The war broke out.”

At the end of 2020, a 44-day conflict over a long-disputed territory killed 5,000 Armenians, wounded 10,000, and displaced more than 100,000. Mothers buried their sons. Children lost their parents or lived in constant terror of such a loss. Tens of thousands of families fled their homes, seeking refuge in communities throughout Armenia.



PHOTO CREDIT: Getty Images



In trauma healing small groups, participants read about God's love for the brokenhearted in the Bible. They also learn to share and heal from their painful experiences through prayer, storytelling, and art exercises.

In dark times like these, it's only natural for suffering people to wrestle, weep, and wail through the most difficult questions known to man—just as Jesus did on the cross:

Where are you, God? Why have you allowed this to happen? Do you still love us? Have you abandoned us?

Yet amid these heartbroken yearnings, one Armenian church leader named Arsen Zohrapyan provides a gentle reminder: “The Bible has answers to all these questions.”

A Bomb Shelter for the Soul

The power of the Bible to bring healing and hope is the bedrock of American Bible Society's Bible-based trauma healing ministry. Your prayers and support brought this comforting balm of God's Word to the war-torn hearts of Armenians in their hour of need.

Bible-based trauma healing is like a spiritual bomb shelter for wounded souls. In a small group Bible study led by a trained facilitator, participants learn about God's unfailing love for the brokenhearted, engage in the biblical practice of lament, and let go of their darkest memories through storytelling, art exercises, and a culminating time of prayer before the cross of Jesus.

Allow us to introduce you to just three of the grateful Armenians you cared for this past year through your timely provision of God's healing Word.

You Wiped Away Hasmik's Tears

“My youngest brother, Rafayel, a major in the army, fell victim in the war,” says a young woman named Hasmik. Before participating in Bible-based trauma healing, Hasmik admits that she dismissed the idea of revealing her

deepest, most painful feelings to anyone. But the Bible gave Hasmik and the other women in her small group permission to lament the loss of their precious brothers, sons, and husbands. The Bible provided them with words to weep and pray in the presence of God and a loving church community.

“In the beginning, we were not able to speak about our pain. Our tears would not let us say something. We could not find the words, and most people just didn't want to be in the same room as us,” Hasmik says. “But recently, I noticed a smile on the faces of mothers who had lost their sons. Their conversations about their sons were of warm memories. They were not shedding tears anymore.”

Hasmik and her husband even named their newborn son Rafayel after her fallen brother—a powerful symbol of new life bursting through the rubble of grief.

You Helped Varazdat Rest in the Psalms

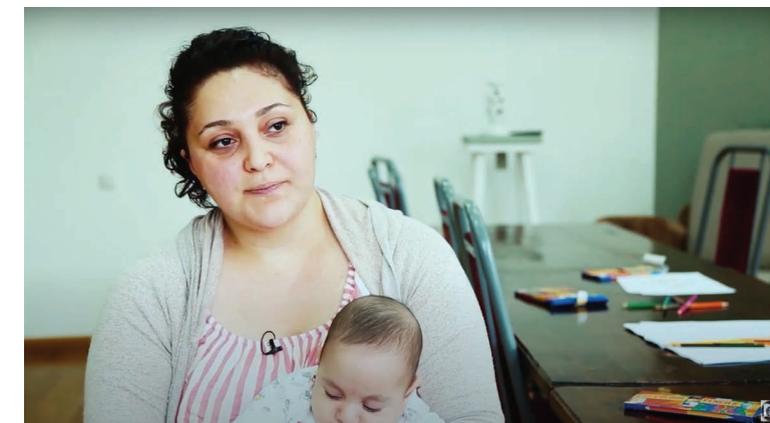
“My life has two parts: life before the war and life after the war,” says a teenage boy named Varazdat. “I lost my homeland, my house, my friends, and, most importantly, I lost my grandfather and my uncle because of the war. They had replaced my father, who died when I was five years old.”

Through your support, Bible Society of Armenia recently organized Bible-based trauma healing groups for the teenagers in Varazdat's school. Borrowing language from the curriculum, Varazdat celebrates that God's Word helped him become “unstuck.”

“The discussions and activities in my class from the *Unstuck* trauma healing book helped me to write about my emotions, which helped me to

“I noticed a smile on the faces of mothers who had lost their sons. They were not shedding tears anymore.”

—Hasmik, Trauma Healing Participant



understand my feelings better,” Varazdat says. “It helped me to see why I often get angry and destroy my relationships with family members and friends. I saw that this behavior is due to my disappointment, sadness, and fear.”

Best of all, Varazdat says he finally found the healthy way to deal with his anger. “It is to read the Psalms and to get more time to pray,” he says. Now, because of your support, Varazdat knows that the Lord is his loving shepherd even in the valley of the shadow of death.



After burying so many young people, like the soldier pictured here, a priest named Abraham was finding it hard to go on with his ministry. He says that your provision of God's healing Word came at exactly the right moment in his life. Thank you!

You Helped Abraham Experience God's Peace

Armenia prides itself on being the first country to formally adopt Christianity in the early fourth century. An incredible 92 percent of the population belongs to the Armenian Apostolic Church, one of the world's most ancient Christian institutions. You can imagine the emotional and spiritual strain that the

pandemic and the war placed upon the nation's church leaders.

"COVID-19 and the war destroyed everything in our country," says an Armenian priest named Abraham. "Every day I had burials in my parish. Elder people died because of COVID. Young boys died because of war."

Even a spiritual leader can feel far from God in the middle of so much suffering and death.

"I had difficulties serving the youth and teens in my parish," Abraham admits. "It is so hard to talk about God's will, God's love, and God's hope in this situation. My heart was broken."

Your support equipped Armenia's church leaders with the strength of Christ at exactly the right moment.

"The Bible Society started this project at the right time," Abraham says. "The trauma healing training firstly helped me to get peace for myself and to talk about my emotions. I recovered and could continue my service in my parish."

Thank You for Giving the Gift of Hope

Thank you, friends, for coming alongside your brothers and sisters in Armenia in this critical time. Because of your generous provision of God's Word, wounded hearts are rising from the ashes of despair. They are now strong and resilient in the love of Christ.

As one trauma healing participant in Armenia puts it, "Many people found God. Hope for tomorrow is slowly reviving." ■■

Send the hope of the Bible to suffering people. Visit [Give.Bible/TraumaHealing](https://www.givebible.com/TraumaHealing)

PHOTO COURTESY OF: Bible Society of Armenia

"Now Our Lord Jesus Speaks Walak!"

A Thank You Letter from the Mission Field in Indonesia



Dear partners of American Bible Society,

Tears of joy were streaming down their faces.

They were praying and waiting at the entrance of their village in Papua—the easternmost province of Indonesia. The Walak people, with their community and church leaders, had been waiting for the arrival of the Indonesian Bible Society's team and partners.

It was a tiring journey from our Bible Society's headquarters in Jakarta. First, we traveled to Sentani, Papua. Then we took a light aircraft to Kobakma. Finally, we journeyed on a rocky road for roughly two hours to reach that village—a remote area with no electricity or cellular network.

But the long travel was instantly forgotten at the joy of seeing the welcoming community.

That very day, Monday, September 13, 2021, became the moment to remember God's faithfulness to the Walak people. The first New Testament in their mother tongue was about to be dedicated at a special service. Three times already the plan was postponed under the pandemic restrictions.

Finally, God answered their prayers!

Initially, the good news of the Bible was delivered to the Walak people in the Lani language by neighboring Lani preachers. With the publication of the Walak New Testament, now the Walak people can read God's Word in the language of their hearts. As one Walak leader put it: "Formerly Jesus came to our village speaking Lani to us. Now he speaks Walak to proclaim the good news to us."

The publication of the Walak New Testament was made possible thanks to the generous support of partners like you—who are committed to serve God's Kingdom through Bible ministry. And the translation team will continue their dedicated work of translating the whole Bible into the Walak language. Prayers and support to sustain their challenging journey ahead will be needed from all who love the Word of God.

Thank you!

Anwar Tjen
*Head of Bible Translation
Indonesian Bible Society*

Visit [Give.Bible/Translation](https://www.givebible.com/Translation) to bring the good news to even more waiting people!

PHOTO COURTESY OF: Indonesian Bible Society

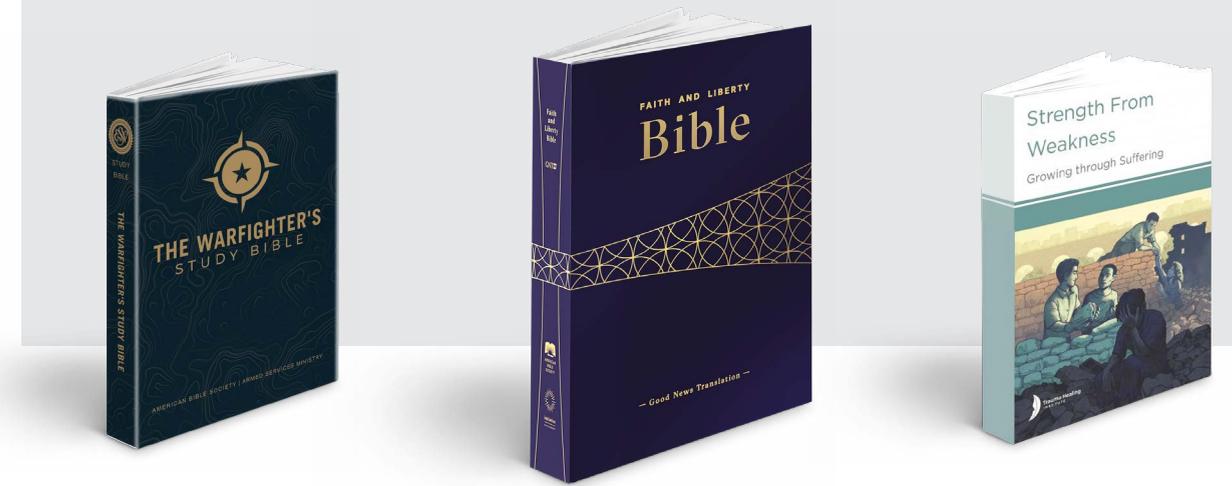
7 Places Where You Brought the Bible



1 The Markets of Uganda

Your love and support brought God's Word to a colorful marketplace outside of Uganda's capital city of Kampala. New Bibles were provided to people who had never owned their own Bible before. These joyous Bible recipients asked our Bible Society partners in Uganda to pass along an important message to you: "Send our big, heartfelt 'thank you' to the people who remembered us!"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Bible Society of Uganda



2 The Printed Page

★ For the Military Community

The Warfighter's Study Bible helps U.S. Military members and Veterans engage daily with Scripture, giving them strength and encouragement from God to face their unique challenges. Drawing from the special customs, language, and imagery of our brave Military community, this Bible features reading plans, helpful explanations, and tailored topical articles from 18 experienced authors.

🇺🇸 For Students of American History

Launched in tandem with the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center in Philadelphia, the *Faith and Liberty Bible* offers 813 articles and quotations from people in American history who have drawn on the Bible in their work and writings. Each piece is annotated and reviewed by a team of scholars and placed near a biblical passage it quotes. It will help readers discover new depths to history as they uncover the significant influence of the Bible on the American experience.

💔 For People in Crisis

Written for adults who have completed American Bible Society's core Bible-based trauma healing curriculum, a new resource called *Strength from Weakness: Growing through Suffering* helps people who have experienced trauma go even deeper in their journey of healing. This curriculum gives small groups more opportunities to encounter the Bible's wisdom about daily life. Topics include breaking the cycle of trauma, distinguishing shame from guilt, having difficult conversations, and finding purpose in life.

Get these life-changing resources into the hands of people who need them! [Give.Bible/GodsWord](https://www.givebible.org)



3 The Blaze in Colorado

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from their homes when a devastating wildfire tore through Boulder, Colorado at the end of 2021. Thanks to your faithful support, the comforting balm of God's Word was present

as American Bible Society's very own Scott Ross, a fire chaplain, was on the scene to fight the flames and distribute Bibles and disaster relief Scripture booklets to local churches.

"I want to serve those who serve," Ross says, echoing your own heart for our brave first responders. "They risk their lives every day, and if I can be just one part of their spiritual well-being, then I want to do that."

4 The Homes of Military Families

Your support of Hero Squad, one of the fastest-growing programs of our Armed Services Ministry, provides U.S. Military children and their parents with quarterly care packages filled with devotionals, gifts, and activities. The first box always includes a Bible for each child as well as one for their parents, equipping them with their most important lifeline as they navigate Military life.

Our goal this year was to enroll 13,550 Military and family members by the end of June. Thanks to your love for these brave heroes, we easily reached this goal six months ahead of schedule! But thousands of heroes are still waiting for a partner to sponsor their family.



Hero Squad Impact Report

Heroes Reached this Year: **13,550+**

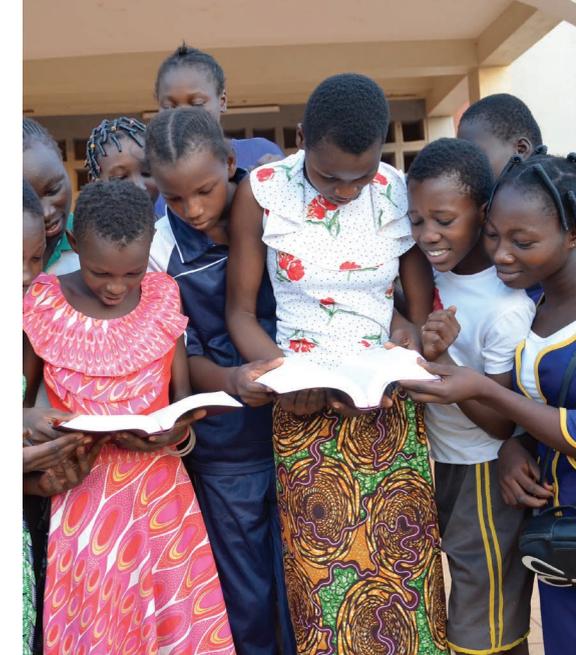
Heroes Still Waiting for a Sponsor: **5,292**

Deliver God's love to more waiting heroes! [Give.Bible/HeroSquad](https://www.givebible.org/hero-squad)

5 The Church in Burkina Faso

More than 250,000 people, mostly residing in Burkina Faso, speak the language of San. And now, thanks to your generous support, the entire San-speaking church—Protestant and Catholic alike—has access to the full Bible in its heart language. This newly translated Bible is a precious comfort for a community that has been ravaged by Islamist attacks in recent months.

"This Bible is a magnificent and vital treasure," says one San-speaking church leader, who is thankful for your prayers and support. "From now on, God will speak to us in San!"



6 Orphanages in Sri Lanka

You are sharing the love of Jesus with boys and girls in orphanages in Sri Lanka. These young people have experienced much rejection, abuse, and neglect in their lives. But through a recent Bible-based trauma healing camp, these precious children were able to learn about the love of their heavenly Father, as well as pour out their hearts to God in a safe and caring small group environment.



7 A Book Fair in Jordan

"They told us a story of forgiveness and love!" That's what one little girl said after visiting Bible Society of Jordan's station at Amman International Bookfair, the largest book fair in their country. Our partners in Jordan were the only Christian vendor at the fair, which hosts 360 publishers and over 100,000 visitors every year. Thank you for helping our faithful ministry partners ensure that the message of the Bible is easily accessible to everyone in the country of Jordan.



PHOTO CREDITS: Scott Ross; Getty Images; Air Force family

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Bible Society of Burkina Faso; Wlakahitha Mendis; Bible Society of Jordan

Hidden in Their Hearts

Through a new oral Bible translation, you're helping Guatemala's indigenous communities become hearers and doers of the Word.

By Elisabeth Trefsgar

A young man named Eliseo stands on a sloping hillside in Guatemala. He smiles as adults and children, eager to hear his words, gather around him. From memory, he begins to tell the ancient story of Cain and Abel. In his voice, the emotions of the story run like threads. When Cain murders Abel, Eliseo hits his fist against his palm. At the end of the story, he lifts his open hands toward heaven.



PHOTO CREDITS: Ana Lisbeth Salazar de Ramirez

This family in rural Guatemala speaks the Mam Todos Santos language. They needed a Bible they could easily understand. The problem was, they do not live in a print-based culture. Here, spreading the good news is not as easy as handing out Bibles or even teaching people how to read. Your prayers and support helped us pioneer a brand new oral Bible translation method that is already changing lives in this grateful community!

“We know the Bible transforms, and we want to have it in our language.”

To you and me, Eliseo’s presentation might look like a dramatic stage performance. But for the indigenous people of Guatemala, this communal experience is what it looks like to “read” the Bible for the very first time in their oral language of Ixil de Cotzal.

Miraculous though it may sound, humble Guatemalan farmers like Eliseo have become Bible translators—even though they can’t read a word of Hebrew, Greek, or even Spanish. While the final product is just as accurate as the Bible on your bedside table, God’s spoken Word is reaching waiting people in record time thanks to a groundbreaking oral translation project that you funded. Now, a culture that has waited generations for the Bible is hearing and responding to God’s Word faster than anyone dreamed possible!

Indigenous Christians couldn’t understand the Bible.

The Ixil de Cotzal, Mam Todos Santos, and Sipakapense speakers that you blessed with oral Scripture belong to Guatemala’s indigenous community, which includes over 6 million people speaking 25 distinct languages. Most people live in rural, mountainous areas and work as farmers, harvesting corn, coffee, and fruit like peaches, plums, and apples. Their homes are humble, constructed from sheet metal and adobe.

Unlike the majority Spanish-speaking culture in Guatemala, these indigenous cultures are largely oral. They rely on spoken rather than

Guatemala at a Glance

Total population:
15M

Indigenous population:
6M

Indigenous languages spoken:
25

Oral Bibles:
0



This is what “reading” the Bible looks like for Guatemala’s oral communities. In this picture, Eliseo is sharing Old Testament stories with his community using his words, his tone, and even his body. Thank you for bringing them the unique Bible they needed!

written communication. Vocal inflection, facial expressions, and gestures all work together with the human voice to communicate meaning. Stories—including Bible stories—are memorized and passed on through word of mouth. In fact, many of these language groups don’t even have an alphabet!

But while an incredible 95 percent of Ixil de Cotzal, Mam Todos Santos, and Sipakapense speakers are Christians, they have never had a Bible that each person could understand. (Let that sink in for a minute!) For generations, local church and ministry leaders have watched their communities navigate family breakdowns, domestic violence, and financial concerns without the wisdom or comfort of Scripture.

“We know that if they could understand the Bible’s message, this would change,” one leader shared. “We know the Bible transforms, and we want to have it in our language.”

Some translation groups have tried to reach oral cultures with written formats of God’s Word. But physical Bibles weren’t making an impact in non-reading communities. So translators got creative and started reading the written versions of God’s Word on the radio like an

audiobook. But when you rely on face-to-face narration and expression to understand a story, even audio Bibles don’t quite engage the heart with the full experience of Scripture.

You helped us develop a new method of Bible translation.

Your support enabled us to finally break down these barriers to God’s Word by developing a new method of Bible translation with roots as old as the Bible itself.

“Oral Bible translation has always accelerated access to the Word of God,” says Dr. Dan Fitzgerald, who serves with American Bible Society to equip and train Bible translators. “For the first 400 years of church history, very few people had access to the written Word as we have it today. But the church didn’t die—it grew. And today, people don’t need to wait years for the Bible to be written and learn how to read. They can experience for themselves the value of hearing the Word of God in their own language.”

Oral translation opens the door for true understanding.

Here's how oral Bible translation works.

A small group of leaders from the community, including Eliseo, gathers for a series of oral Bible translation workshops. During these intensive sessions, translators listen to an Old Testament passage in Spanish and discuss the story together. They talk about characters, plot, context, and key concepts. Led by experienced Bible Society staff, this time of discussion is critical for ensuring that each translator understands the Scripture before they translate it into their native tongues.

How does oral Bible translation work?



SPANISH: Translators listen to the passage in Spanish



STUDY: Translators discuss the passage together to fully understand the story



SPEAK: Each language group works together to re-tell and record the story in their heart language, creating a completely oral translation



SAFEGUARD: Final translations are recorded and checked by translation consultants to ensure the accuracy of each translation



SHARE: Translators return to their communities and recite Scripture from memory

“They become invested in each story,” Fitzgerald says. “They get mad at the bad guys. They are happy for the good guys. They ask questions. They discuss and they argue with each other. Together, they gain a rich understanding of Scripture!”

Once they clearly understand the story, each language group works together to translate the passage from Spanish into their heart language, using a digital recorder instead of paper and pens or a word processor. The final audio recording undergoes the same rigorous review process as written translations to ensure that the translation is accurate and credible. Translators and pastors will now reference these authoritative recordings of Scripture before they tell the Bible stories, word-for-word, to eager listeners in their home communities.

Long-awaited Scripture is transforming lives in oral communities.

A handful of Bible stories from the Old Testament—chosen by community leaders who best understand the spiritual needs of their people—have now been completed, and they're already making a big difference. For people who have only ever heard the Bible in a second language, the experience of listening to oral translations brings them to a whole new level of engagement with God's Word.

One man named Nicolas says that his understanding of the Bible has completely changed since you provided God's Word in a language and format that speaks not just to his ears, but to his heart.

“We understand the stories more in the Ixil de Cotzal language because it nurtures us with expression,” he says. “We are able to understand the Bible better.” Now, instead of struggling



Nicolas and his family love gathering around the dinner table to discuss the oral Bible stories they hear. Before you gave them a Bible in the language of their hearts, they struggled to grasp the meaning of Scripture in Spanish.

to grasp Scripture in Spanish, Nicolas and his family spend many evenings sitting around the dinner table, discussing the Bible stories they hear. “The Bible is an incomparable book for me because it is the book that leads to eternal life,” he says, adding that his family is now equipped to seek the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for helping your brothers and sisters in Guatemala hide God's Word in their hearts!

Through your support, the living Word of God is spreading through Ixil de Cotzal, Mam Todos Santos, and Sipakapense communities—in a language each person can understand! Tomorrow, as you open your Bible in the quiet

hours of the morning, your brothers and sisters in Guatemala will be able to experience some of the very same stories through oral translation. Long after they hear Scripture spoken, they will be able to remember and recite God's Word in the moments when they need faith, hope, and courage.

Finally, they can hide God's Word in their hearts!

Eliseo the storyteller is rarely at a loss for words, but the experience of watching his people truly understand the biblical message he speaks brings him unspeakable joy.

“The narrations have been of great impact for many and are helping them grow,” he says. “There are no words to express the impact.”

Help Bible translators finish life-changing projects like this one! Visit [Give.Bible/Translation](https://www.givebible.org/translation)

Q&A

with Two of Your Fellow Kingdom Builders



Meet Osvaldo and Deborah Gratacós, two passionate supporters of American Bible Society like you. Debbie currently serves on the Board of American Bible Society. She is the founder and CEO of DEVAL LLC, where Osvaldo now serves as president and chief investment officer following his role as a vice president at the World Bank Group. Born in Puerto Rico, Osvaldo and Debbie now live in Virginia with their three sons—ages 16, 15, and 6.

How would you describe yourselves?

Osvaldo: I would describe myself as just a regular guy trying to serve God's bigger mission.

Debbie: I'm a businesswoman, a mother, a wife, a daughter, and a lover of the Bible.

Why did you decide to partner with American Bible Society?

Debbie: It all started when I heard an advertisement for American Bible Society on a Christian radio station. We gave what we thought would be a one-time gift. Then, about six years ago, I had a vision of handing out Bibles door to door. I told Osvaldo, "I think God wants us to send out Bibles." We reached out to American Bible Society again and started with 10,000 Bibles. Some went to El Salvador, some to California, and some we handed out with our kids as part of a homeless ministry here in Virginia.

Osvaldo: We quickly learned that when God gives you a vision of what he wants you to do, he doesn't always give you a plan. But he opens doors. For example, I had a Ghanaian coworker at the World Bank. I asked her, "Do you know anyone who needs Bibles in Africa?" Through her, we learned about the need for Bibles not just in Ghana, but also in

Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, and Egypt. I had known this coworker for several years and we shared the faith, but I didn't realize there was a window for Bible ministry.

Debbie: Through American Bible Society, we discovered a way to contribute to God's mission and purpose. Today, we've sent 400,000 Bibles around the world. Our goal now: why not 1 million?

Where have you focused your giving?

Osvaldo: At first, we focused on Bible distribution. Then we got involved with translation work in Guatemala—we even hosted a fundraising event at our home! We decided that we wanted to get more involved with the other ways American Bible Society is advocating for the Bible. That's how we heard about Bible-based trauma healing.

Debbie: When Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, the whole island went dark. There was no food or water. We worked with a nonprofit to raise over \$3 million for food relief. While we were in Puerto Rico distributing food, we met many pastors. We saw how they had set aside their own trauma to serve the community with the comfort of God's Word. Through these friendships, we had the chance to tell our brothers and sisters about trauma healing through American Bible Society. In this way, not only did we feed them with food, but we had the opportunity to feed them with something greater: the love of Christ in Scripture.

What do you want your family legacy to look like?

Osvaldo: When God calls one person, he calls the household—including the children! Someday, they will have to decide whether to continue. But we're committed to doing the work of Bible ministry together as a family.

Debbie: We've talked to our sons. We challenged them, "If we give away 1 million Bibles, you must give away 10 million Bibles!" We got the kids involved and committed for our family. I think that tells people about our legacy. That's how we want to be remembered.

What do you want to say to your fellow supporters of American Bible Society?

Osvaldo: American Bible Society is a great organization that has significant impact on Bible ministry in the United States and globally. Its legacy goes back to the origins of this country. And it's one way to support the mission of God. You can be part of it.

Debbie: When God calls you to this kind of ministry, you start questioning: am I good enough? We can never be good enough—we're sinners! But you're called, so get going! When Jesus calls, you must have a willingness to say yes. Whatever you ask of me, yes. The answer will always be *yes*.

Make a bold commitment to share God's Word where it's needed most: [Give.Bible/GodsWord](https://www.givebible.com)

2022 Daily Bible Reading Guide

One of the best ways to grow in your relationship with God is to read his Word each day. Use this guide to help you engage with the Bible this year, asking God to illuminate his truths to you and to help you live for him.

January

- 1 Ephesians 1:1-14
- 2 Ephesians 1:15-23
- 3 Ephesians 2:1-10
- 4 Ephesians 2:11-22
- 5 Ephesians 3:1-13

Epiphany

- 6 Ephesians 3:14-21
- 7 Ephesians 4:1-16
- 8 Ephesians 4:17-32

- 9 Ephesians 5:1-20
- 10 Ephesians 5:21-33
- 11 Ephesians 6:1-24
- 12 2 Corinthians 1:1-11
- 13 2 Corinthians 1:12-24
- 14 2 Corinthians 2:1-11
- 15 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

- 16 2 Corinthians 3:1-18
- 17 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins

- 18 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10
- 19 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
- 20 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
- 21 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
- 22 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Ecumenical Sunday

- 23 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
- 24 2 Corinthians 8:16-24
- 25 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
- 26 2 Corinthians 10:1-18
- 27 2 Corinthians 11:1-15
- 28 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
- 29 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- 30 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
- 31 2 Corinthians 13:1-13

February

- 1 Luke 10:1-24
- 2 Luke 10:25-42
- 3 Luke 15:1-10
- 4 Luke 15:11-32
- 5 Luke 18:15-30

- 6 John 3:1-21
- 7 John 3:22-36
- 8 John 13:1-20
- 9 John 13:21-35
- 10 John 14:1-14
- 11 John 14:15-31
- 12 John 15:1-17

- 13 John 15:18-27
- 14 John 16:1-15
- 15 John 16:16-24
- 16 John 16:25-33
- 17 John 17:1-26
- 18 Colossians 1:1-14
- 19 Colossians 1:15-23

- 20 Colossians 1:24-29
- 21 Colossians 2:1-19
- 22 Colossians 2:20-3:4
- 23 Colossians 3:5-17
- 24 Colossians 3:18-4:1
- 25 Colossians 4:2-18
- 26 Leviticus 19:1-18

- 27 Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- 28 Deuteronomy 6:10-25

March

- 1 Luke 11:1-13

Ash Wednesday

- 2 Psalm 51
- 3 Psalm 68:1-18

World Day of Prayer

- 4 Psalm 68:19-35
- 5 Psalm 71

First Sunday in Lent

- 6 Psalm 11

Great Lent (Orthodox)

- 7 Psalm 16
- 8 Psalm 25
- 9 Psalm 27
- 10 Psalm 28
- 11 Psalm 40
- 12 Psalm 41

Second Sunday in Lent

- 13 Psalm 55
- 14 Psalm 59
- 15 Psalm 60
- 16 Psalm 61
- 17 Psalm 62
- 18 Psalm 63
- 19 Psalm 64

Third Sunday in Lent

- 20 Psalm 77
- 21 Psalm 88
- 22 Psalm 90
- 23 Psalm 91
- 24 Psalm 102
- 25 Daniel 9:1-19
- 26 Daniel 9:20-27

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 27 2 Chronicles 6:1-11
- 28 2 Chronicles 6:12-21
- 29 2 Chronicles 6:22-42
- 30 2 Chronicles 7:1-10
- 31 Job 42:1-17

April

- 1 Psalm 33
- 2 Psalm 42

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 3 Psalm 43
- 4 John 9:1-12
- 5 John 9:13-41
- 6 John 11:1-27
- 7 John 11:28-44
- 8 John 11:45-57
- 9 John 12:1-11

Palm/Passion Sunday (Western Churches)

- 10 John 12:12-36a
- 11 John 12:36b-50
- 12 John 18:1-18
- 13 John 18:19-40

Maundy Thursday (Western Churches)

- 14 John 19:1-16a

Good Friday (Western Churches)

- 15 John 19:16b-30
- 16 John 19:31-42

Easter Sunday (Western Churches)

- 17 John 20:1-18
- 18 John 20:19-31
- 19 John 21:1-14
- 20 John 21:15-25
- 21 Romans 9:1-18
- 22 Romans 9:19-33
- 23 Romans 10:1-21

Pascha (Orthodox Easter)

- 24 Romans 11:1-24
- 25 Romans 11:25-36
- 26 Romans 12:1-21
- 27 Romans 13:1-14
- 28 Romans 14:1-23
- 29 Romans 15:1-13
- 30 Romans 15:14-33

May

- 1 Psalm 18:1-24
- 2 Psalm 18:25-50
- 3 1 Samuel 1:1-18
- 4 1 Samuel 1:19-28

National Day of Prayer

- 5 1 Samuel 2:1-11
- 6 1 Samuel 2:12-26
- 7 1 Samuel 2:27-36

- 8 1 Samuel 3:1-21
- 9 1 Samuel 4:1-11
- 10 1 Samuel 4:12-22
- 11 1 Samuel 5:1-12
- 12 1 Samuel 6:1-7:1
- 13 1 Samuel 7:2-17
- 14 1 Samuel 8:1-22

- 15 1 Samuel 9:1-27
- 16 1 Samuel 10:1-16
- 17 1 Samuel 10:17-27
- 18 1 Samuel 11:1-15
- 19 1 Samuel 12:1-25
- 20 1 Samuel 15:1-9
- 21 1 Samuel 15:10-35

- 22 1 Samuel 16:1-23
- 23 1 Samuel 31:1-13
- 24 2 Samuel 1:1-27
- 25 2 Samuel 5:1-16

Ascension Day (Western Churches)

- 26 Acts 1:1-26
- 27 2 Samuel 7:1-17
- 28 2 Samuel 7:18-29

- 29 Psalm 89:1-18
- 30 Psalm 89:19-37
- 31 Psalm 132

June

- 1 Romans 6:1-14
- 2 Romans 6:15-23
- 3 Romans 8:1-17
- 4 Romans 8:18-39

Pentecost (Western Churches)

- 5 Acts 2:1-13
- 6 Acts 2:14-28
- 7 Acts 2:29-47
- 8 Acts 9:1-25
- 9 Acts 9:26-43
- 10 Acts 10:1-33
- 11 Acts 10:34-48

- 12 Acts 11:1-18
- 13 Acts 11:19-30
- 14 Acts 12:1-25
- 15 Acts 13:1-12
- 16 Acts 13:13-41
- 17 Acts 13:42-52
- 18 Acts 14:1-28

- 19 Galatians 1:1-24
- 20 Galatians 2:1-21
- 21 Galatians 3:1-14
- 22 Galatians 3:15-4:7
- 23 Galatians 4:8-31
- 24 Galatians 5:1-26
- 25 Galatians 6:1-18

- 26 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- 27 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- 28 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- 29 1 Corinthians 14:1-25
- 30 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

July

- 1 Deuteronomy 31:1-13
- 2 Deuteronomy 31:14-29

- 3 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:27
- 4 Deuteronomy 32:28-44
- 5 Deuteronomy 32:45-52
- 6 Deuteronomy 33:1-17
- 7 Deuteronomy 33:18-29
- 8 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- 9 Joshua 1:1-18

- 10 Joshua 2:1-24
- 11 Joshua 3:1-17
- 12 Joshua 4:1-24
- 13 Joshua 23:1-16
- 14 Joshua 24:1-15
- 15 Joshua 24:16-33
- 16 Judges 2:1-23

- 17 Judges 3:1-31
- 18 Judges 4:1-24
- 19 Judges 5:1-31
- 20 Judges 6:1-27
- 21 Judges 6:28-40
- 22 Judges 7:1-25
- 23 Judges 8:1-35

- 24 Judges 9:1-21
- 25 Judges 9:22-57
- 26 Judges 10:1-18
- 27 Judges 11:1-33
- 28 Judges 11:34-60
- 29 Judges 13:1-25
- 30 Judges 16:4-22

- 31 Judges 16:23-31

August

- 1 Philemon 1-25
- 2 Isaiah 41:1-20

- 3 Isaiah 43:1-21
- 4 Psalm 78:1-37
- 5 Psalm 78:38-72
- 6 Psalm 86

- 7 Psalm 105:1-22
- 8 Psalm 105:23-45
- 9 Psalm 107:1-22
- 10 Psalm 107:23-43
- 11 Genesis 32:1-21
- 12 Genesis 33:1-20
- 13 Genesis 37:1-11

- 14 Genesis 37:12-36
- 15 Genesis 39:1-23
- 16 Genesis 40:1-23
- 17 Genesis 41:1-36
- 18 Genesis 41:37-57
- 19 Genesis 42:1-24
- 20 Genesis 42:25-38

- 21 Genesis 43:1-14
- 22 Genesis 43:15-34
- 23 Genesis 44:1-17
- 24 Genesis 44:18-34
- 25 Genesis 45:1-28
- 26 Genesis 46:1-27
- 27 Genesis 46:28-47:12

- 28 Genesis 47:13-31
- 29 Genesis 48:1-22
- 30 Genesis 49:29-50:14
- 31 Genesis 50:15-26

September

- 1 John 5:1-18
- 2 John 5:19-29
- 3 John 5:30-47

- 4 John 6:1-24
- 5 John 6:25-59
- 6 John 6:60-71
- 7 John 7:1-24
- 8 John 7:25-39
- 9 John 7:40-52
- 10 John 8:1-20

- 11 John 8:21-30
- 12 John 8:31-59
- 13 1 Kings 3:1-15
- 14 1 Kings 3:16-28
- 15 1 Kings 4:20-34
- 16 2 Chronicles 34:1-28
- 17 2 Chronicles 34:29-33

- 18 Psalm 1
- 19 Psalm 2
- 20 Psalm 14
- 21 Psalm 15
- 22 Psalm 49
- 23 Proverbs 10:1-32
- 24 Proverbs 12:1-28

- 25 Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

- 26 James 1:1-27
- 27 James 2:1-26
- 28 James 3:1-18
- 29 James 4:1-17
- 30 James 5:1-20

October

- 1 Exodus 18:1-27

World Communion Sunday

- 2 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- 3 Exodus 23:1-13
- 4 Psalm 7
- 5 Psalm 9
- 6 Psalm 10
- 7 Psalm 17
- 8 Psalm 122

- 9 Obadiah 1-21
- 10 Nahum 1:1-15
- 11 Nahum 2:1-13
- 12 Nahum 3:1-19
- 13 Habakkuk 1:1-17
- 14 Habakkuk 2:1-20
- 15 Habakkuk 3:1-19

- 16 Leviticus 25:1-22
- 17 Leviticus 25:23-38
- 18 Leviticus 25:39-55
- 19 Leviticus 27:1-15
- 20 Leviticus 27:16-34
- 21 Numbers 27:1-11
- 22 Numbers 36:1-13

- 23 Deuteronomy 15:1-18
- 24 Deuteronomy 16:1-22
- 25 Deuteronomy 17:1-20
- 26 Deuteronomy 19:1-21
- 27 Ezekiel 18:1-20
- 28 Ezekiel 18:21-32
- 29 Ezekiel 34:1-10
- 30 Ezekiel 34:11-31
- 31 John 10:1-21

November

- 1 Ezra 1:1-11
- 2 Ezra 3:1-13
- 3 Ezra 4:24-5:17
- 4 Ezra 6:1-12
- 5 Ezra 6:13-22

- 6 Ezra 7:1-10
- 7 Ezra 7:11-28
- 8 Nehemiah 8:1-18
- 9 Nehemiah 12:27-47
- 10 Haggai 1:1-15
- 11 Haggai 2:1-23
- 12 Zechariah 8:1-23

- 13 2 Chronicles 4:1-22
- 14 2 Chronicles 5:1-14
- 15 Psalm 118

- 16 Psalm 135
- 17 Psalm 92
- 18 Psalm 93
- 19 Psalm 95

- 20 Psalm 96
- 21 Psalm 97
- 22 Psalm 98
- 23 Psalm 99

Thanksgiving Day

- 24 Psalm 100
- 25 Psalm 112
- 26 Psalm 113

First Sunday of Advent

- 27 Psalm 24
- 28 Isaiah 11:1-16
- 29 Isaiah 12:1-6
- 30 Jeremiah 10:1-16

December

- 1 Psalm 30
- 2 Psalm 136
- 3 Psalm 138

Second Sunday of Advent

- 4 Exodus 12:1-14
- 5 Exodus 12:15-36
- 6 Exodus 12:37-51
- 7 Exodus 13:1-10
- 8 Exodus 13:11-22
- 9 Exodus 14:1-18
- 10 Exodus 14:19-31

Third Sunday of Advent

- 11 Exodus 15:1-18
- 12 Exodus 15:19-27
- 13 Exodus 16:1-21
- 14 Exodus 16:22-36
- 15 Exodus 17:1-16
- 16 Psalm 75
- 17 Isaiah 38:1-20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

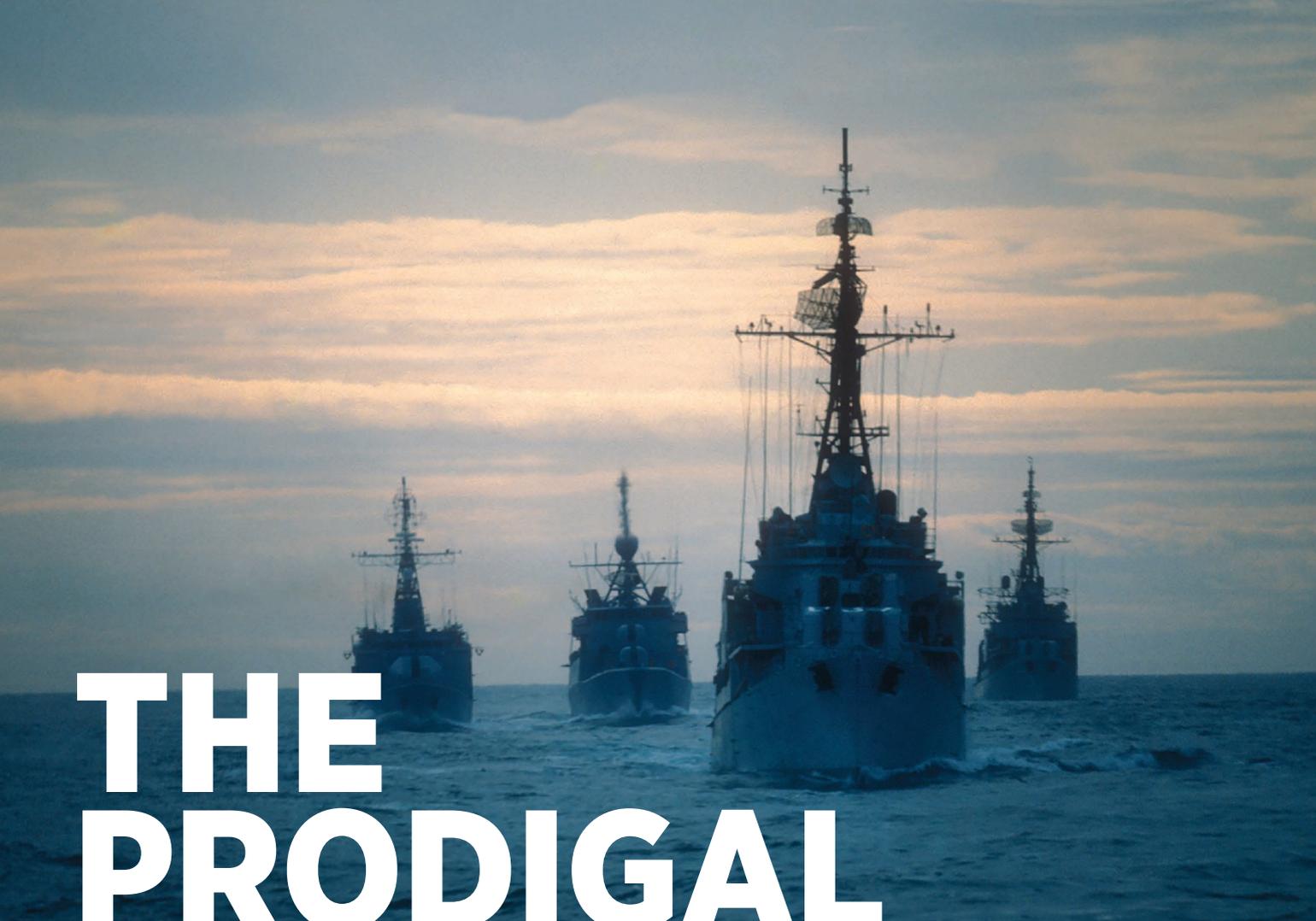
- 18 Isaiah 7:1-25
- 19 Isaiah 8:1-20
- 20 Isaiah 8:21-9:7
- 21 Luke 1:1-25
- 22 Luke 1:26-56
- 23 Luke 1:57-80
- 24 Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day

- 25 John 1:1-18
- 26 John 1:19-34
- 27 John 1:35-51
- 28 Luke 2:21-38
- 29 Luke 2:39-52
- 30 Matthew 1:1-25
- 31 Jude 1-25

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THE PRODIGAL SAILOR

A U.S. NAVY VETERAN SHARES HOW A TINY MILITARY NEW TESTAMENT CHANGED HIS LIFE.

Naval Veteran Paul Bendt of Charleston, South Carolina knows that he isn't the first person who started following Jesus in the U.S. Military—and he certainly won't be the last.

“The old military expression says, ‘There are no atheists in a foxhole,’” Paul explains. “Well, in the Navy we had one better than that: ‘You can't dig a fox hole in a steel deck!’”

Although his four years of service spanned most of the Korean War, Paul didn't see any action in the proverbial foxhole, on the steel decks of a battleship or otherwise.

“The only battle that I saw was the ‘battle’ of East Main Street, Norfolk, Virginia—known for its harlots, booze, tattoos, and casinos,” Paul confesses. “I lived a pretty riotous life in the Navy. My life was full of sensualism, self-abuse, and self-destructive habits.”

Paul ran far from his Christian upbringing.

Anyone who met Paul during his spiritual battles on East Main Street would have been shocked to learn that this wild Sailor had spent his childhood as an advocate of American Bible Society.

“My parents and grandparents operated a German bakery in downtown Charleston. My grandmother would purchase literature from American Bible Society and give it to our small children to hand out to customers,” Paul remembers. “She was a supporter of American Bible Society, and I would read through their literature as a boy.”

Despite growing up in the church, surrounded by the influence of the Bible, Paul's heart remained distant from God.

“I had what you would call a nominal acquisition of Christianity,” Paul says. “But I never gave my life to Christ.”

As the Latin proverb says, “In war, great events are caused by small things.” And while serving in the Navy, the greatest change in Paul's life would come via the smallest of packages: a tiny Military Bible from American Bible Society.

“When you're 1,000 miles away from home, it's extremely comforting to know God's presence.”

“When I went into the Navy in 1948, a young chaplain was passing out little New Testaments from American Bible Society,” Paul remembers. “It was just a regular four-by-three-inch New Testament. It's got a little black cover with a few psalms, prayers, and hymns in the back.”

Paul will tell you, however, that it's one thing to receive a new Bible. It's another thing to read it.



Paul's life was never the same after he started reading a pocket-sized New Testament designed by American Bible Society for U.S. Military members.

“I’m so encouraged American Bible Society is trying to reach more Military members, because I’ve been there.”

“I remember taking it, being polite and saying ‘thank you,’ and then putting it in the bottom of my sea bag,” Paul says. His riotous life in the Navy commenced with God’s Word buried out of sight and out of mind.

He uncovered the buried treasure of God’s Word.

Thankfully, that wasn’t the end of Paul’s story.

“During my last months in the Navy, I very hesitantly and reluctantly answered the call to follow Christ at the prompting of a young Sailor

who had invited me to a Baptist revival dinner,” Paul says. “He led me by the hand all the way from conversion to commitment.”

And just like King Josiah rediscovering the book of the law in 2 Kings 22, a newly converted Paul soon uncovered a life-changing treasure at the bottom of his Naval bag.

“That little New Testament from American Bible Society was still neatly tucked into the bottom of my sea bag,” Paul remembers. “I hadn’t seen it in nearly four years. One wonderful day in February of 1952, God’s Spirit moved me to go get it and read it.”

That’s when Paul heard the voice of his Savior speaking to his heart.

“I opened the Bible to the fifth chapter of Matthew—to the Beatitudes. For the first time in my life, the Bible came aglow. I mean it just lit up like a Christmas tree!” Paul exclaims. “It became more than poetry to me; it became the living Word. My life took on an entirely different meaning. Of course, we all know that was the Holy Spirit dealing with me.”

More than 70 years later, Paul still hasn’t lost his tiny, life-changing treasure from American Bible Society.

“I’ve kept it very close by,” Paul says of his pocket



It’s not easy being a Veteran. Through his Word, God helps Veterans discover his perfect peace and rest. Thank you for sharing God’s love with our brave heroes!

New Testament. “My wife, Annie, and I have moved about 20 times in our 69-year marriage. We’ve lost, misplaced, and broken a lot of stuff. But that little New Testament survived!”

The prodigal became an evangelist.

After his conversion in the Navy, Paul returned to his childhood roots and once again became a passionate advocate of American Bible Society.

“I decided to support American Bible Society because, from reading their literature way back as a child, I knew they were printing Bibles in every known tongue,” Paul says. “It’s a way of broadcasting the gospel, the good news. It’s an exciting invitation to be a part of the greater Kingdom of God.”

Specifically, Paul and his wife, Annie, started purchasing charitable gift annuities from American Bible Society, which has never missed a single income payment to annuitants since the program started in 1843—not even during economic downturns like the Great Depression.

“American Bible Society has a reputation of being good businesspeople as well as spiritual,” Paul says. “I liked charitable gift annuities because their impact continued in perpetuity.”

Not surprisingly, Paul is most excited to see the spiritual impact that his support is having in the U.S. Military.

“I’m so encouraged American Bible Society is trying to reach more Military members, because I’ve been there,” Paul says. “I know how desperately lonely you can get sometimes. When you’re 1,000 miles away from home, it’s extremely comforting to know God’s presence. And if you don’t have the companionship of the Holy Spirit, you can get into trouble.”

Today, unlike his early days in the Navy, Paul refuses to bury the treasure that changed his life.

“The good news was so effective, so efficacious in my life,” Paul says. “If the gospel could do for another what it did for me, then it’s worth the money.”

Remind our brave Veterans that God loves them. Send them a Bible today! [Give.Bible/Veterans](https://www.givebible.com/veterans)

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Your Impact on Military Lives Last Year

170k

Service members engaged with God’s Word

111k

Veterans sought healing in the Bible

23k

Military spouses studied Scripture

4k

Children and parents reached through new Hero Squad program



IN MEMORIAM

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!”

MATTHEW 5:4 (CEV)

in memory of my wife
Katherine Billingham
given by Dr. William Billingham

in memory of my husband
D. Donald Brasco
given by Mary Jane Brasco

in memory of my wife and daughter
June and Kim Handwerker
given by Bob Handwerker

in memory of
Buddy Replogle
given by Doug Miller

in memory of
Veronica Simmons
given by Leatha Hamrick

in memory of
Charles H. Smith, Jr.
given by Sandra P. Smith

in memory of our aunt
Ruth Starr
given by William Starr, Mary Ellison,
and Richard Starr

in memory of
Lee Strain
given by Millie Wilson

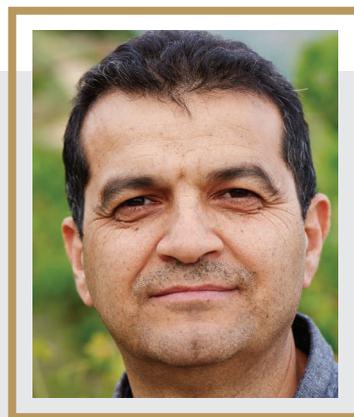
in memory of my husband
Billy Teague
given by Jackie Teague

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Remembering Labib Madanat (1964-2021)

Labib served with American Bible Society for nearly a decade as our Senior Middle East Advisor. He shared his wealth of ministry experience freely, building relationships with financial partners and fostering collaboration between ministries in the Middle East. Among his colleagues, Labib was known for his faith, his love, and his joy in the Lord.

As we mourn the loss of this dear brother, American Bible Society thanks God for the gift of Labib's life and ministry. We pray for God's comfort to surround Labib's beloved family and friends. And we hold fast to the eternal hope of Jesus Christ, whom Labib loved and served so well, and who has now welcomed this good and faithful servant home.

“If you can't go, GIVE!”

Prayerfully consider making a planned gift.



Ever since she was little, Gweneth Alexis had a dream. “After giving my life to Christ when I was 14 years old, I wanted to be a missionary!” Gweneth says. “I used to read books about missionaries when I

was a kid. I wanted to go to India.” But some dreams don't come true—at least not as we hope.

“I didn't have the opportunity,” Gweneth explains. “We had a hard time financially. Money was very hard to come by to go to Bible school and things like that.” Gweneth eventually moved from the island of Saint Thomas to Texas. She started working in a department store. Then for 12 years, she worked in the cafeteria at Houston's M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Although she often struggled to make ends meet, Gweneth offered up a bold prayer to the Lord. “Dear heavenly Father,” she prayed, “I was not able to do the desire of my heart—to be a missionary. So, whatever you give me financially, I'm going to give part of it to you!” That's when God taught her a life-changing truth: not all missionaries travel the globe.

“I heard about American Bible Society through a Houston radio station,” Gweneth recalls. “I realized that although I cannot go in person to the mission field, those who do go need financial help. I started giving a little bit of money over the years.”

“I really love and appreciate Charitable Gift Annuities. You can dedicate some money to God, and it will grow and continue to do God's work—even when we are no longer in this world.”

Gweneth says she is still inspired by the courage and persistence of missionaries and translators who go into different countries with the message of Scripture. “Although we're living in the 21st century, so many people still haven't heard about Christ!” she says. “That's why it's very important to give the Bible to others, especially in their heart language.”

Today, Gweneth is the happy owner of a **Charitable Gift Annuity** with American Bible Society, which provides a lifetime of guaranteed income for one or two annuitants. “I really love and appreciate Charitable Gift Annuities. You can dedicate some money to God, and it will grow and continue to do God's work—even when we are no longer in this world,” Gweneth says. “My gifts will continue to do my heart's desire and what God has commissioned—to go into all of the world with the good news.”

Although she has not become a missionary to India, Gweneth knows that she plays an indispensable part in God's plan. “You know, we all do different work in God's vineyard,” Gweneth explains. “Some go, some pray, some give. We're all building up the Kingdom of Christ.”

Your giving plan can send support straight to the front lines of the mission field! Schedule a conversation with one of our Gift Planning experts today:

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