

Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Fall 2007

6,912 Languages
One Message



A Missionary
Looks Back

God's Word in
Outer Space

A Vision for
the Future



When Lives Change

"Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind."

ROMANS 12.2a (GNT)

It is particularly gratifying when stories come to my attention about young lives transformed by Scripture, like the one Tonya Wilder-Butts told at the American Bible Society Board meeting in June. I asked Tonya to present something about her experience visiting a Youth Commission facility in Texas. Afterward, I don't think there was a dry eye in the room.



Tonya's work as editor in chief of *Elementz of Life*® magazine (see page 4) takes her to extraordinary locations. This past spring, it brought her to the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit, a maximum security facility near Waco, Texas that houses 432 young people. Tonya brought Jose Velez, whose own story about leaving gang life was the cover feature of last year's issue of *Elementz of Life* magazine. Inside the facility they visited with youths, ages 10 to 16, whose crimes included drug dealing and murder. When Jose spoke to them about his own dangerous past and near-death experience, the kids were riveted; Jose was speaking their language. By the end, many came to greet Jose with tears in their eyes.

Then Tonya stood up to share the mission of the American Bible Society with them, and related stories from the latest issue of *Elementz of Life*: about how other young people facing similar situations found solutions through the Bible, and are now coping more effectively in life. Sharing and participating in that kind of transformation is why we do what we do — and the end result is that real lives are changed forever.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Record*. We are thrilled to have reconnected with Colonel Frank Borman, who led the 1968 *Apollo 8* spaceflight (see page 12). His amazing life is a testimony to God's Word working in and through him these many years.

May God bless you this Christmas and always.



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

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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

FALL 2007, VOLUME 152, NUMBER 3

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SHARE YOUR STORY

Little Surprises

Geoff Moore is a Grammy Award-winning singer who shared this story on ShareYourStoryNow.org in a video interview. Visit the site to watch more of his story and others like it — or to post your own.

My wife and I had been married about 20 years and had two teenage sons. And my wife comes to me and wants me to pray about adopting a little girl from somewhere around the world. She just felt like this was something that God was compelling her toward . . .

The first thought that went through my mind was, "I have to figure out how to stop this!" She said, "Would you pray about it?" She hadn't been real specific so I was like, "Lord, help my wife to see she is terribly mistaken and wrong!"

But God's Word is living and active. . . . And you know, then I read in the Book of James that the only pure and undefiled religion is the care for widows and orphans. And it was like God had written a cue card and held it up to my heart.

So now I have a six-year-old Chinese daughter, and I have a four-year-old Chinese daughter, and God has revolutionized our lives. He just used a simple phrase from his Word to bring that into focus in my life. ■

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA



We encourage you to send your letters and inquiries to: Editor, American Bible Society Record, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: 212.408.8754. E-mail: absrecord@americanbible.org. For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the Record, please call 1.866.895.4448.

Update FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

EGYPT Fun with the Bible

>> This fall, a lively new attraction comes to the Heliopolis suburb of Cairo. **Bible World is an interactive exhibition** that promises to deliver fun and history to the 500,000 Christian children in the Greater Cairo area.

Sprawling over seven rooms on the ground floor of the Bible Society of Egypt, each area is designed with a different theme. One room features a Scriptorium set in Alexandria 270 B.C., where children can write a Bible verse on papyrus. Another invites them to set type and print passages from Scripture on a re-created Gutenberg press. Further on,



YOUNG EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS are the minority in their classrooms.

a “space capsule” takes children on a **journey** through the history of the Bible, and the voice-over narration relates the story of the role that Egyptians played in the early preservation and transmission of the Bible. The whole experience is designed to provide hands-on learning about the history of God’s Word — and to make it fun.

TAJIKISTAN Over the Hills

>> A brave team from **the Bible Society of Tajikistan took Bibles all over the remote north of the country** — including over two of the highest mountain passes. The trek, which spanned more



than 600 miles, brought the travelers in contact with speakers of Tajik, Uzbek and Russian and allowed them to distribute Scriptures in those languages.

Although the central Asian country is mostly Muslim, it is an ancient crossroads. The team was allowed to see rare handwritten editions of Scripture in the Persian and Arabian languages.

“The trip has shown us the importance and benefits of undertakings like this,” says Bible Society Executive Director **Olga Pilkevich**. “When the warmer days come, making mountain passes easier to negotiate, we plan to make journeys to the areas of Pamir, Khatlon and the Rasht Valley.”

NATIONAL

The Legacy of Eugene A. Nida

>> Any **biography of Eugene A. Nida** is cause for celebration. Now one of the most thorough will reach a much wider audience. *Let the Words Be Written: The Lasting Influence of Eugene A. Nida* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2004) by Dr. Philip C. Stine is available in paperback. A Chinese translation, by Dr. Simon Wong, was published in 2006.

Nida’s ideas on translation, including his “dynamic equivalence” theory, continues to have a profound influence on how we think about translating the Bible today. He actively worked with translation projects across the world, and his theories shaped the American Bible Society’s *Good News Bible*



ELEMENTZ TAKES THE STREETS

The fourth volume of *Elementz of Life*® magazine came out in August. The vibrant pages target inner-city youth and hip-hop culture, inviting transformation through Jesus Christ. In this issue, the cover story features Grammy Award-winning gospel artist **Kirk Franklin**, who gave editor in chief **Tonya Wilder-Butts** open access to his time and family at his home in Texas. In a no-holds-barred interview, he told readers to “Stop making excuses and begin the healing process.” For more on this American Bible Society publication, visit www.elementzoflife.com.

EGYPT: PHOTO BY FRANCINE LANGE; TAJIKISTAN: PHOTO BY ALEXANDER NEMENOV/GETTY IMAGES; ELEMENTZ COVER AND EUGENE NIDA: IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



EUGENE A. NIDA (far right) meets with the Kogatai translation committee during a visit to Japan in the 1950s.

(New Testament, 1966; Old Testament, 1976) and the *Contemporary English Bible* (1995). Today, Eugene A. Nida lives in Belgium, retired but active at the age of 92.

FLORIDA

Operation Life Box

>> It all started when **Missions Pastor Ray Sanabria** got the idea to send gift boxes to overseas troops on the Fourth of July. On Memorial Day Sunday, **Pastor Ken Whitten**, senior pastor of Exciting Idlewild! Baptist Church near Tampa, announced project **“Operation Life Box.”** He invited 1,250 volunteers to pack 1,250 boxes and deliver them to the church by July 2.

Each box held one American Bible Society military Bible — provided by Bible Society Board Member and Idlewild deacon **Pieter Dearoff**. The granddaughter of General George S. Patton Jr. supplied names and biographies of service personnel. By the end of July, the boxes had been received in Iraq and Afghanistan, a reminder of support and God’s care from back home. 📖

Bible Q&A

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



There is mention of the Book of Jashar in the Old Testament. Is this a missing book of the Bible?

—JOE O., VIA E-MAIL

The Book of Jashar is one of the lost source books of early Israelite poetry from the Amarna Age (15th and 14th centuries B.C.). It is excerpted twice or possibly three times in the Old Testament. *Jashar* is a common Hebrew word meaning “one who is straight, honest, just, righteous, upright.” This means that the Book of Jashar may also be translated the “Book of the Upright.” It is often assumed that this title either refers to the heroic people identified in the stories or to all Israel as the upright people. Some scholars doubt there ever was a written book, attributing the Book of Jashar instead to a collection of traditional oral expressions.

The Book of Jashar may also be translated the “Book of the Upright.”

In Luke 4.16, 17, Jesus reads the words of Isaiah in the synagogue: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” What were the rules governing readings in those days?

—WILL K., CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICH.

The reading of the Parascha, or section from the Law, by another person would have preceded the reading of Isaiah by Jesus. There is no way of knowing if the reading from Isaiah was the appointed lesson for the day. It is inconclusive whether there was, at that time, a cycle of

prophetic lessons; and if there were, whether it would have been strictly followed. The cycle of lessons now in use dates much later. It is unclear whether Jesus read a passage selected by someone else or one he chose himself. Some scholars

believe that Luke’s description of Jesus finding the place in Isaiah means that Luke understood that the passage was a choice Jesus made himself.

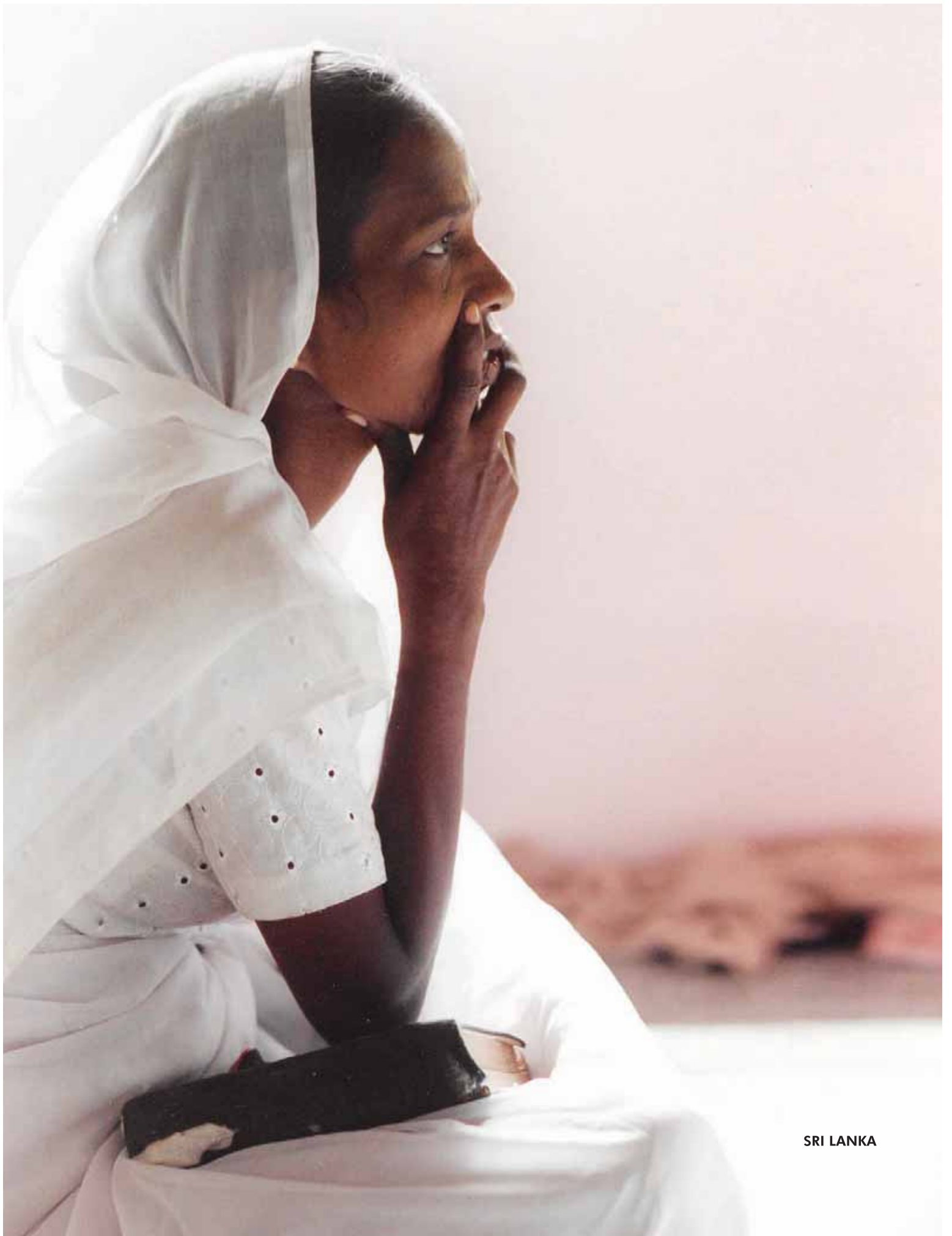
An obituary for Kurt Vonnegut said that he preferred the French

“blessed are the débonnaire” to the English “blessed are the meek.” That sounds odd. Are these words equivalent?

—JANE M., VIA E-MAIL

In a discussion of the French use of *débonnaire*, *The Interpreter’s Bible* says that “a meek, little man is a title no one covets,” and that the French word — which we may today associate with “suave,” but which had an archaic meaning of “gentle” or “courteous” — may cancel out the sadness or sense of unimportance we might associate with the word “meek.” *Débonnaire* is found in the earlier editions (1951, 1961) of the *Louis Segond* French version of the Bible. However, in the second revision of this translation in 1968, the word *débonnaire* was changed to *doux*, which simply translates to “gentle” in English. 📖

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



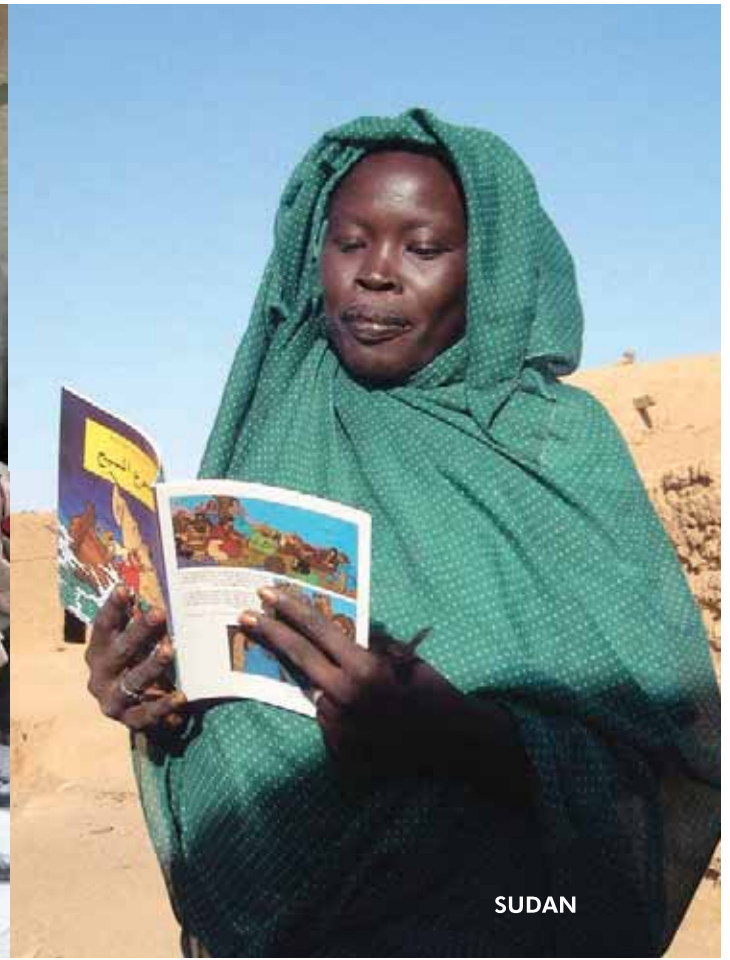
SRI LANKA



ARGENTINA



BOLIVIA



SUDAN

Tell Every Nation

Scripture translation comes face-to-face with the 21st century

| BY JASON ANTHONY

OPPOSITE: PHOTO BY RUNE HANSEN; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTO BY LARRY JERDEN; PHOTO BY GEOFFREY STAMP; PHOTO BY TITO LAHAYE. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

A small group of Bible translators gathers in a remote stone farmhouse, in the deep snow of an Ontario winter. They come from many Native American tribes; some from as far away as the chilly north slopes of Alaska, others from the plains of Mississippi. Bundled against the cold, they pray and continue a journey together that they have slowly and patiently walked for many years. At the end of that road is Scripture in their own languages — the languages in which they pray.

A new Bible translation is always a cause for joy. It is a door that has opened to a whole people. In Matthew 28.19, known as the Great Commission, the resurrected Jesus tells the apostles, “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples”

(*GNT*). Those words are the basis for the call to bring the gospel story to all languages, in every nation, through the ages — a goal at the very heart of the American Bible Society.

But Scripture translation has never been easy. In the best of times, it is a slow and uphill trek. Millions speak languages still untouched by Scriptures, and widespread illiteracy is also a serious obstacle. But the 21st century is bringing new avenues for reaching every heart. And the end of that journey has never seemed nearer.

SPIRIT OF THE LAKOTA

Rosalie Little Thunder grew up speaking Lakota in the Western plains, learning English as a second language. The Bible had always been available to her in English, and it gave her comfort. But this



BIBLE STATISTICS

The Bible is by far the most translated book in the world.
Here is a look at its global reach:

TOTAL NUMBER OF LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD: 6,912 . . . TOTAL WITH SOME SCRIPTURE: 2,426 . . . TOTAL WITH A COMPLETE NEW TESTAMENT: 1,144 . . . TOTAL WITH A FULL BIBLE: 429 . . . TOTAL NEW LANGUAGES WITH WORK CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS: 1,640 . . . THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO SPEAK LANGUAGES WHERE TRANSLATION PROJECTS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN: 196,000,000

wasn't true for other Lakota people she knew. Many of her tribespeople turned away from the Bible because of all the "bad associations" they had with the Europeans who brought centuries of war and double-dealing. The painful history made some of them distrustful of what the white people brought — even when that was the message of the gospel.

About 20 years ago, Little Thunder got involved with Scripture translation. Last year, she and her team produced *Life in All Its Fullness*, a collection of Bible verses in Lakota published alongside stories of traditional tribal practices and sayings. Her hope was that the gospel message written in the language in which her people prayed might begin to bridge a divide she had felt all of her life.

HEART LANGUAGE

In fact, the words of the gospel in Lakota spoke for themselves — and changed hearts. "Sometimes we memorize Scripture but never really hear what it means," Little Thunder says. "When you do it in a mother tongue, people sit up and take notice and say 'I get it. I get the lesson. I get the message.'" The words of Jesus particularly struck home. "He's easy to translate because what he said are things that our grandmothers and grandfathers told us," says Little Thunder.

There are nearly 7,000 languages spoken today. About 2,400 have received some Scripture, and those languages can be understood by more than 90% of the world's population. But those numbers don't tell the whole story. People can read Scripture in the language that they speak at work every day, yet never really connect with it. If it is not the intimate language they use with family and loved ones, the language in which they pray, its personal message may be lost. As the story of the Lakota shows, the key to Bible translation lies in bringing Scripture to the world's "minority" languages.

"Heart language" translation projects are in progress all over the world. Native speakers of Haka Chin (Myanmar), Cou (Taiwan), Anuak (Ethiopia) and thousands of others labor and pray day after day, often in private homes, bringing Scripture, verse by verse, into

the words that will touch their neighbors most deeply. They are working with scholars from the United Bible Societies to bring out new versions of Scripture that are both meaningful and accurate.

The Native American language teams who arrived in snowy Ontario understand this painstaking process all too well. The retreat was a sort of milestone for these teams, who each brought the goal of finally publishing some Scripture in the languages they spoke. The Yup'ik team would finally see the Psalms in print. The Gospel According to Mark would come to the Choctaw. And the whale-hunting Inupiat would be able to touch their Book of Jonah.

The Scriptures were published, and on the last day of the retreat each team placed them on a makeshift altar — years of work at last in front of them. They joined hands over the fruits of their arduous labor, and facilitator Steve Berneking asked God to bless what they had done.

Emotions ran high; tears fell. They touched the published texts in their heart languages for the very first time. "Those of us who have six or eight Bibles in our house can't understand," says Berneking.

A LONG HISTORY

Muslims are instructed to read the Koran in Arabic. The language for Jewish worship has been Hebrew or Aramaic. But the followers of Jesus made a choice that his story would not remain in one language but speak in all of them. As a result, the Bible is by far the most widely translated book in the history of the world.

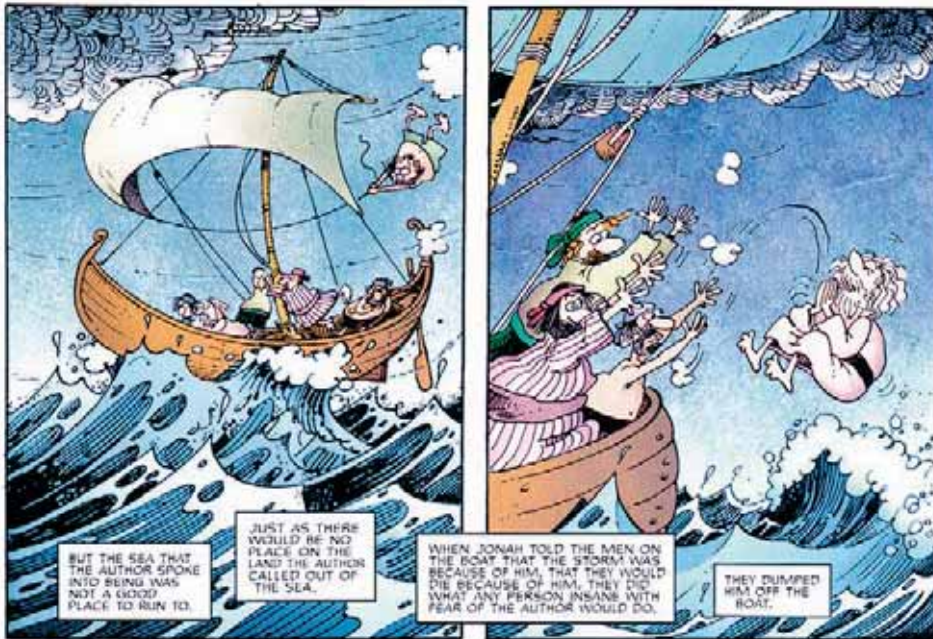
There is a price for not fixing the message in one time or place. Times change and words change. Translations must be updated

or they lose freshness and intimacy of connection. New languages even emerge. A community in Poland is trying to bring the Bible into street slang, and groups in France are looking at doing the same for an emerging patois spoken by immigrant Arabs.

The American Bible Society took up the translation mantle in 1818, when it published Scriptures in the language of the Delaware Indians. In the 20th century, it launched the *Good News Translation* and the *Contemporary English Version* of the Bible in English, making the language accessible and accurate for the modern world.

A TRANSLATOR'S STORY

Dr. Kuo-Wei Peng talks about his spiritual challenges as a translation consultant for the United Bible Societies: "As a pastor, I loved to work with people. In pastoral work, you see the changes right there in front of you. It's such a delight, and always very encouraging. But that stands in sharp contrast with Bible translation. . . . You have to believe that you are changing lives, but they are people we cannot see. But we still have faith that somehow God will use the Bible. You need a certain kind of faith to keep you moving on. If you don't have faith in the people you cannot see, you cannot go on."



SERGIO ARAGONÉS illustrated these scenes from the Book of Jonah for *Testament*, a retelling of the Old Testament in comic-book form.



AUDIO SCRIPTURES in Mali reach those who cannot or do not wish to read.

Its partnership with *Faith Comes By Hearing*[®] supports Audio Scriptures and ensures that those translations so painstakingly created will not be silent due to illiteracy, since half of the world’s population cannot read. And for its bicentennial in 2016, the Bible Society has set itself the goal of seeing that at least some Scripture is available to everyone on the planet.

NEW FRONTIERS

The next generation of translation will not only provide the Word but find a voice that can reach someone where his or her heart lives. It means presenting an ancient message in ways that people can and will hear. And one of the boldest new directions for the Great Commission says that not everyone’s “heart language” has to appear in black and white.

Bob Hodgson is dean of the Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship, which the American Bible Society’s Board of Trustees opened in May 2001 as a center of Bible scholarship and translation. The shelves of his office are crammed with materials in many languages, covering the whole spectrum of modern media. There are Bibles and study guides, audio tapes, DVDs, photo albums — even a comic book or two.

“We have to think, what is that register of language that I use to express my most intimate thoughts and feelings?” he asks. “What language do I use to communicate with my soul mate? It might be a picture. It might be music.”

Taking the Word off the written page is less revolutionary than it might sound. Hodgson points out that the first biblical codices,

or books, arrived in the fourth century, around the same time that the first drawing of Jesus appeared in the catacombs of Rome. “In the ancient world, 95% of the world was illiterate. You might not read the story from John 10, but you might see the picture. The earliest efforts are to translate not only into heart languages we speak, but heart languages we *see*.”

He also pulls out what he calls the “earliest comic” — a book of Bible story drawings from the fourteenth century called the *Biblia Pauperum*. Then he pulls out *Testament*, a recent Bible Society publication that brought leading graphic artists together to retell the stories of the Old Testament in comic-book form for a young, modern audience.

Hodgson also sees technology opening doors. In the future, handheld electronic Bibles may use maps, art and video to bring the Word into a sharper and more personal focus for the digital age. This innovation will call for a Bible translator to be fluent not only in Greek and Hebrew but also in the possibilities for making connections on many levels. Following this kind of approach calls for creativity, ingenuity and a heavy dose of humility.

“We are dealing with a text that is very foreign — to all of us,” he says. “It comes from a time and place that none of us can ever know. As scholars, we have to carefully understand the text. As translators, we have to clearly communicate that.”

These goals will take Bible translation into the next century. And so the slow, patient journey continues, as it will until at last its life-changing message reaches every nation, and every heart. ■

A new Bible translation is always
a cause for joy, a door that
has opened to a whole people.

➔ For more information about how you can help in this global effort, visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org.



[SPECIAL APPEAL]

A SEASON OF GIVING Give the greatest gift of all this Christmas by reaching out to

Audio Scriptures in Schools Around the Globe

Many countries are now using Audio Scriptures in schools to help teach values. The Bible Society supports these initiatives and can help equip many schools with an entire Audio Scripture Library for just \$40.



Please give to help change young lives, using technology that children embrace.

\$40 helps equip one school with an audio Bible library

Reference # AQ080003



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Meet the Growing Need for Bibles in China

One of the most fertile fields for distributing the Bible today is China. The hunger there is growing, and demand continues to exceed supply. Fortunately, for just \$1 you can help provide the paper for a Bible to a Chinese Christian.



Many have been longing to receive the Good News. As the church grows, so does the need.

\$75 helps provide the paper to print 75 Bibles

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\$100 helps give 200 children a New Testament

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Men and women in prison live lonely lives, struggling with guilt and anger over their mistakes. Many are desperately searching for answers to a life filled with pain and frustration. With your donation, you can help them find the true comfort found in God's Word. By giving to the



prison ministry programs, you can help transform the lives of those most ready to hear a message of hope.

Help supply them with the Word most suited for a repentant heart.

\$60 helps supply 15 Bibles for prisoners in need

Reference # AQ080168



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those in need of Scripture around the world.

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Comfort Persecuted Christians

Sadly, there are countless Christians around the world who are struggling under persecution. Living as minorities in their countries and communities, they are sustained by the light



of faith. Yet despite the loss of buildings, homes — and sometimes the lives of loved ones — many of these brave Christians must persevere without Bibles of their own.

Your gift helps give Christians in crisis the ultimate source of comfort and hope — God's Word.

\$80 helps give 20 new Bibles to persecuted Christians

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Give Some Hope to America's Children

Thirty-seven million Americans are living in poverty today. Many poor children are fearful that they may starve. But through the Bible Society's partnership with Feed The Children, we can help



provide the essential bread of life and hope found in Bible storybooks — along with nutritious emergency food.

Help change lives today with your generous gift.

\$28 helps to bring hope to seven children living in hunger

Reference # AQ080005



Give online at www.bibles.com/hunger
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Fill a Yearning Heart

Today, many still cannot read or hear the Bible in the language of their hearts. But the work of translation continues. The Lakota team, for example, is working to bring God's Word to a people who are ready to embrace it. Help make translation projects like this one a reality for the many who long to read and encounter Scripture for themselves, in the language in which they pray.



Share the Good News with as many men, women and children as possible.

\$50 can help cover the cost of three new chapters

Reference # AQ080024



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Keep the Presses Rolling!

From China to Africa, the worldwide need for Scripture is overwhelming. There are simply not enough Bibles to reach everyone who is ready to receive one. You can help — right now — by



supplying God's Word where it is needed the most. A donation will help provide this bread of life to places where the need is currently most desperate.

Help ensure that no one goes spiritually hungry.

\$60 can help provide 15 Bibles for people in need

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Heaven and Earth

Former astronaut
Frank Borman's journey with the
American Bible Society



*"He named the land 'Earth,' and the water which
had come together he named 'Sea.' And God was pleased
with what he saw." GENESIS 1.10 (GNT)*

It was Christmas Eve, 1968. Commander Frank Borman was more than 200,000 miles from home, leading the *Apollo 8* space mission. On that holy night, Borman and his crew would be the first human beings to ever reach the moon (though no one would actually walk on it until the following July). It was a milestone moment, watched by the largest media audience that had ever witnessed any event in history.

When Borman and his crew were asked to speak that Christmas Eve, they knew their words would reach the ears of more than a billion people. That was one out of four people on the planet. What words could possibly be appropriate? After consulting with his friends and crew, Borman decided to recite the first 10 verses of Genesis — the biblical account of creation.

THE VIEW FROM SPACE

Commander Borman recounted that epic journey at the 156th annual meeting of the American Bible Society in 1972. For the first of their 10 revolutions around the moon, “we were obviously closer to it than any man had ever been before — really only 60 miles away — and we were drawn to the moon,” he said. “But after about the fourth revolution we began to seek other horizons and looked back. And our thoughts were drawn to Earth.”

Borman saw that blue-green marble in the heavens, which he could cover with his thumbnail. It was the only thing in the wide black blanket of sky that gave any promise of life. It seemed so much a symbol of God’s creation and care that Borman was overwhelmed. “I thought then, and I continue to think now, that the voyage of *Apollo 8* was really the final leg in my own personal religious experience.” The words of Genesis were entered into the flight plan, and the rest is history.

Today, Colonel Borman, 79, and his wife, Susan, live in a tiny town in eastern Montana. Some nights he still looks up at the moon and remembers what that moment felt like. “Everything that we held dear was



FRANK BORMAN suits up for the historic voyage of the *Apollo 8*. He became one of the first men to reach the moon.



back on Earth,” he says simply. “I was just struck by the sensation that there was an almighty hand that created that beautiful place.”

When the men came back to Earth, they were national heroes. *Time* magazine named the three *Apollo 8* astronauts 1968 Men of the Year. But Borman never forgot the spiritual and scriptural dimension of his voyage. Shortly after he made his speech to

the American Bible Society, he was elected to serve as an honorary vice president, a position he holds to this day.

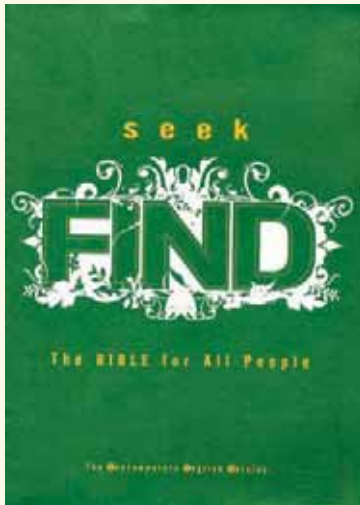
COMING HOME

Back then, he remarked that the turbulent world of the 1960s was a time of changing morals, where “instant solutions” and “personal ethics” were gaining a strong foothold. It called for a deeper look into Scripture. “The answer, it seems to me, is still to be found in the Bible,” he said. “[It] contains words that are both a promise and a mandate.” This is something he still believes.

Colonel Borman and his wife have been blessed through 57 years together, in and out of the spotlight. “We had our turn in serving our country and serving our Lord,” he says. He is content to see that a younger generation of adventurers will also step up to that challenge. He hopes that they, too, will take God’s Word across the wide oceans and distant lands — and even up into the frontiers of space. ■

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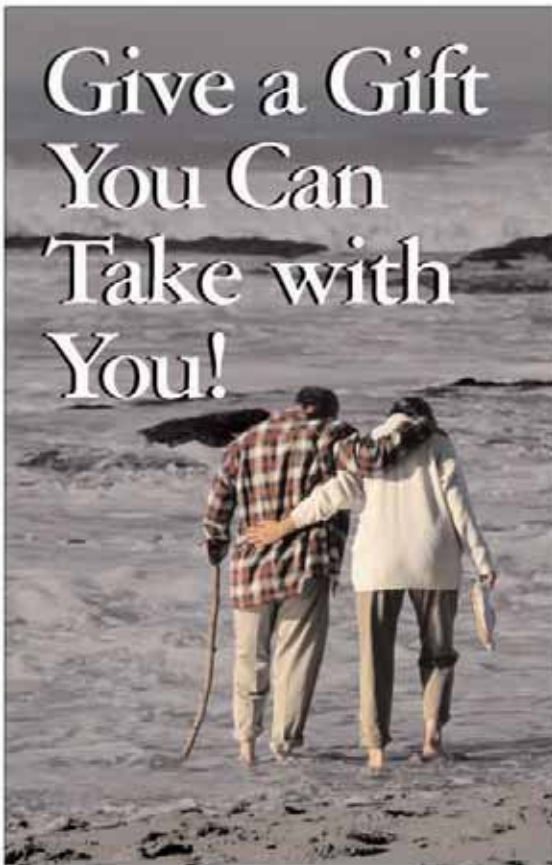
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Back to the Future

| BY LIZ SMITH

For the Record engages Dr. Lamar Vest, executive vice president for Global Scripture Ministries, in a conversation about his years of service with the American Bible Society and asks what's on tap for 2016.

Q: What do you think about the state of Bible ministry in the world?

A: Well, one can always look at the issues that keep you awake at night, and one of them for me is the increasing biblical illiteracy in this nation. We've spent a lot of time thinking and praying about how the Bible Society can and should help turn around this downward slide. We feel that we have an obligation and a responsibility to be sure we engage the new generation — to awaken them to the power of God's Word.

Q: Do you have a vision for change?

A: We are moving into digital media because we need to compete with the world, and we need to speak to the sight-and-sound generation. We want children and teens to make a daily habit of listening to Scriptures and watching Scripture-based videos.

It is our conviction — working with and through the body of Christ — that words matter and God's Word matters most. It's time for Christians to take seriously the competitive words of our surrounding culture. In the end, God will have the last word; as it says in Matthew 24.35 (CEV): "The sky and the earth won't last forever, but my words will."

Words matter,
and God's Word
matters most.

Q: You were invited to serve on the board in 1991, and then you were chairman from 2001 to 2006. Is there a key accomplishment from those 16 years you'd like to mention?

A: Helping shepherd the American Bible Society "back to the future" — away from a publication and distribution orientation toward an emphasis on engagement with Scripture. That was our Founders' passion. This sense of engagement is expressed through the addition of eight words to the mission statement: "so all may experience its life-changing message," referring to the Bible.

Q: Are there any ways to see that engagement at work?

A: There are lots of examples. Take a look at ShareYourStoryNow.org. In June, we began uploading video testimonies there. Also, Tonya Wilder-Butts has an important story about what she is doing with youth rehabilitation in Texas [see page 2].

Q: Now you're on staff. What projects are you working on?

A: So far, we have integrated international and domestic ministries into one area called Global Scripture Ministries. With the advent of digital communica-



DR. LAMAR VEST is the former presiding bishop of the Church of God.

tion our means of exchanging ideas has broadened, and the most important opportunity is to connect a new generation with the Scriptures.

Q: What's the goal for the bicentennial in 2016?

A: We believe the American Bible Society is called to meet the future with the same confident faith and creativity that the Founders evidenced in 1816. They summarized this beautifully the day the Bible Society came into existence: "We shall do our part toward the expansion and intensity of light divine, which shall visit, in its progress, the palaces of the great, and the hamlets of the small, until the 'whole earth be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea!'" (Habakkuk 2.14)

By 2016, I can see translating, recording and delivering, in many ways, the Bible in at least 2,000 languages, which will reach 97 percent of the world's speakers. We are striving to reach tens of millions in the U.S. and hundreds of millions worldwide who have never encountered the Bible. ■

◆ You can obtain more information about Global Scripture Ministries by visiting us at www.americanbible.org.



Please Pray

“ALL OF YOU NATIONS, COME PRAISE THE LORD! LET EVERYONE PRAISE HIM. GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS WONDERFUL; HIS FAITHFULNESS NEVER ENDS. SHOUT PRAISES TO THE LORD!” PSALM 117.1,2 (CEV)

AZERBAIJAN

Praise God for the many Scriptures distributed. Pray for the success of the FCBH project in south Azerbaijan and that God will open the hearts of many to receive his salvation. Pray for those who lead Bible work and for the publishing team as it prepares literature. Ask that all the projects planned bear fruit. Please pray for the people and the leaders of Azerbaijan.

CAMEROON

Praise God for the warm reception for the Tupuri Bible last year and for the completion of translation projects in Kwaja, Vuté, Mofu, Ngiemboon and Giziga. Pray for the continued success of our HIV/AIDS prevention program and give thanks for our other programs, including FCBH and work among TAZI audiences. Ask that our relations with the churches will continue to improve. It remains difficult to supply Scriptures to São Tomé and Príncipe: Pray that we can open a warehouse there. Pray for support for the new team

in Equatorial Guinea and ask that the authorities will respond positively to Bible work.

KAZAKHSTAN

Praise God for ongoing work on the Kazakh Study Bible, with first editions of Ruth, Jonah and 1 Thessalonians already published. We have also published four activity books for children. Our bookshops in Karaganda and Aktobe are functioning well, but the district of Almaty where Bible House is situated is due to be demolished. Pray for funds to rebuild Bible House and for a more convenient location.

Thank God for strengthening our relationship with churches in the Kyrgyz Republic.

RUSSIA

We praise God for the privilege of being part of the worldwide Bible Society family. We give thanks, too, for our schools project, which aims to reach 10,000 public school teachers. Ask God to guide our translators as they continue to translate the Bible into minority languages. Pray also for a favorable outcome to our legal battle over Bible House, and for new partners for our charity programs. 📖

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MINISTRY



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— the enthusiastic cry from an orphan in Cameroon

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“... and him who cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

JOHN 6:37b (KJV)



**ELIZABETH AND
WILLIAM SEDAT**
with their four
children

Where He Leads

| BY LIZ SMITH

Elizabeth Sedat grew up in a godly home in California, around stories of the missionary life. Her mother had been a short-term missionary in Japan. Other missionaries were always visiting. And at the tender age of 12, Elizabeth felt the call — that this work would be her life’s goal, too.

A few years later, a woman missionary in Guatemala provisionally came to their home on furlough and stayed for a year. Years later, after she finished college, Elizabeth received an invitation from that woman to come to Guatemala for a year. When she arrived, she drew on her musical education and organized a music program — playing and teaching the pump organ for the local church.

During her stay in Guatemala she was introduced to William Sedat. He was translating the Bible for the Kekchi tribe. When it was time for Elizabeth to return to California, William asked if he could have permission to write to her. While Elizabeth studied for a double master’s degree in English literature and education, William’s letters began to trickle in, then arrive steadily. Then one day he proposed. She accepted.

This meant a return to Guatemala, where they were married in a Presbyterian Church and eventually raised four children.

The Sedats lived in the heart of Kekchi Indian country. Elizabeth began to learn translation theory and practice; she was

determined to be a *missionary* wife, not a *missionary’s* wife. In 1961, another tribe, the Pokomchi, contacted their mission council to ask for assistance in acquiring Scriptures in their language. So William and Elizabeth and the Pokomchi helpers began a translation of the Pokomchi New Testament. During these years Dr. Eugene A. Nida of the American Bible Society — one of the most influential Bible translators of the 20th century — was the Sedats’ frequent houseguest and became a good friend of William’s.

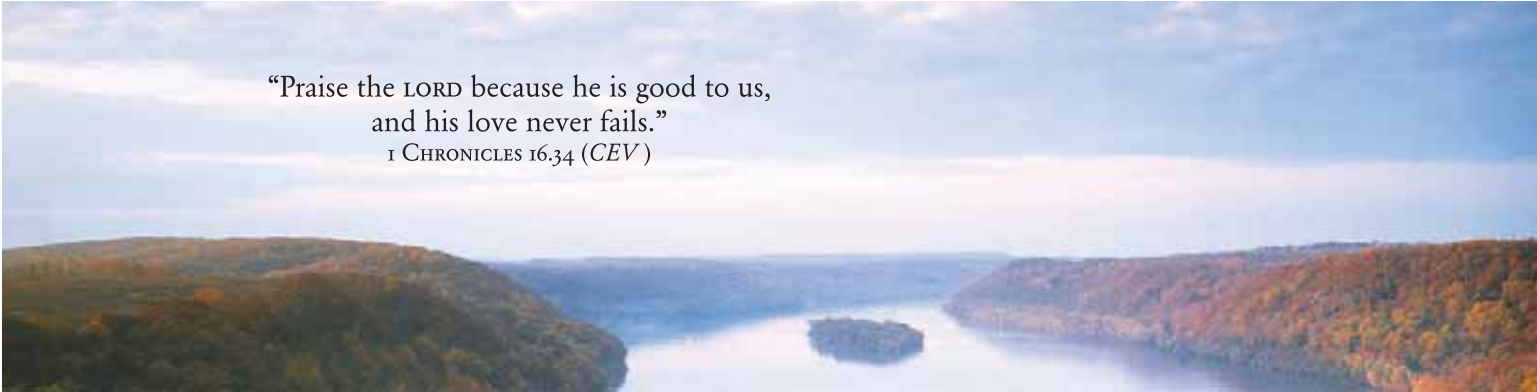
In 1971, William was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Following his death, Elizabeth picked up the coordination of the Pokomchi New Testament. Over the years the team leaned constantly on God and various Bible Society consultants for wisdom and guidance. In 1983, the first Pokomchi New Testament was printed by the American Bible Society.

Elizabeth’s childhood was also shaped by her mother’s wise money-management principles, which included a 10 percent tithe (Elizabeth first applied the tithe to her allowance). Now, at 92, she continues to give to God by sharing her inheritance, through a gift annuity and life income arrangement, with the American Bible Society. This way she is able to achieve both her personal income needs and her desire to advance the Bible cause, while continuing to support other Christian work. 📖

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Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS



“Praise the LORD because he is good to us,
and his love never fails.”
1 CHRONICLES 16:34 (CEV)

OCTOBER 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND WORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 EXODUS 20.1-21	2 EXODUS 23.1-19	3 LEVITICUS 25.1-34	4 LEVITICUS 25.35-55	5 NUMBERS 27.1-11	6 NUMBERS 36.1-13
7 1 CORINTHIANS 11.17-34 *	8 DEUTERONOMY 15.1-18	9 ISAIAH 5.1-30	10 ISAIAH 11.1-16	11 ISAIAH 32.1-20	12 ISAIAH 42.1-25	13 ISAIAH 43.1-28
14 ISAIAH 55.1-13	15 ISAIAH 56.1-12	16 ISAIAH 57.1-21	17 ISAIAH 58.1-14	18 ISAIAH 59.1-21	19 ISAIAH 61.1-11	20 ZEPHANIAH 3.8-20
21 EZEKIEL 11.1-25	22 EZEKIEL 34.1-16	23 EZEKIEL 34.17-31	24 AMOS 5.1-27	25 JONAH 3.1-4.11	26 MICAH 4.1-13	27 MICAH 6.1-16
28 PSALM 85	29 PSALM 96	30 PSALM 97	31 PSALM 46	* SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7: WORLD COMMUNION		SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND GIVE THANKS FOR GOD’S BLESSINGS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 GENESIS 14.1-24	2 HEBREWS 7.1-28	3 PSALM 24
4 PSALM 18.1-19	5 PSALM 18.20-50	6 1 CHRONICLES 15.1-16.6	7 1 CHRONICLES 16.7-43	8 PSALM 103	9 PSALM 104	10 PSALM 105
11 PSALM 144	12 PSALM 145	13 PSALM 146	14 PSALM 147	15 PSALM 148	16 PSALM 149	17 PSALM 150
18 BIBLE SUNDAY ROMANS 15.1-13	19 2 CORINTHIANS 8.1-24	20 2 CORINTHIANS 9.1-15	21 PSALM 84	22 THANKSGIVING DAY PSALM 100	23 PSALM 126	24 DEUTERONOMY 26.1-15
25 PSALM 135	26 PSALM 138	27 REVELATION 4.1-11	28 REVELATION 5.1-14	29 REVELATION 7.1-17	30 ISAIAH 12.1-6	NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK IS NOV. 18 - 25

DECEMBER 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND SPREAD THE JOY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 REVELATION 1.1-20
2 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT MATTHEW 24.29-51	3 MATTHEW 25.1-30	4 MATTHEW 25.31-46	5 ROMANS 1.1-17	6 MARK 1.1-8	7 JEREMIAH 33.14-26	8 ZECHARIAH 9.9-17
9 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT ISAIAH 40.1-11	10 MALACHI 3.1-15	11 MATTHEW 3.1-12	12 ISAIAH 35.1-10	13 ISAIAH 49.1-26	14 ISAIAH 60.1-22	15 ISAIAH 65.17-25
16 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT MICAH 5.2-9	17 LUKE 1.1-25	18 LUKE 1.26-56	19 LUKE 1.57-80	20 ISAIAH 7.1-25	21 ISAIAH 9.1-7	22 MATTHEW 1.1-17
23 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT MATTHEW 1.18-25	24 LUKE 2.1-20	25 CHRISTMAS DAY JOHN 1.1-18	26 JOHN 1.19-34	27 JOHN 1.35-51	28 MATTHEW 2.1-15	29 MATTHEW 2.16-23
30 LUKE 2.21-40	31 HEBREWS 1.1-14					

PHOTO BY STEVE CICERO/SOLUS PHOTOGRAPHY/VEER



[In Memoriam]

“Do not be worried and upset,’ Jesus told them. ‘Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.’” JOHN 14.1-3 (GNT)

Frank Basile

GIVEN BY MRS. LUCY BASILE

OUR SON, David Beazley Jr.

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. DAVID C. BEAZLEY

IN MEMORY OF MY BELOVED SISTER,
Louise Doris Bechlein

GIVEN BY THE TRUST OF HER BELOVED BROTHER,
HARRY E. BECHLEIN

MY HUSBAND, Anthony V. Blanks
MY MOTHER, Mary Doss Irby
GIVEN BY MRS. ORA IRBY BLANKS

PRESIDING ELDER Yale Benjamin Bruce Sr.
GIVEN BY DAVID R. SMITH

MY HUSBAND, Arthur C. Bruner Jr.
GIVEN BY MRS. KATHARINE BRUNER

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MY AUNT, Elsie I. Sainsbury
GIVEN BY MRS. DOROTHY I. HILL

REVEREND Harold D. Smock
GIVEN BY THE ESTATE OF REVEREND HAROLD D. SMOCK

Olyne Upchurch
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"How can they believe if they have not heard the message?" ROMANS 10.14b (GNT)



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