

Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Winter 2008

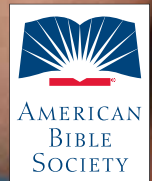
BIBLES FOR
CHILDREN

A Tender Faith

Wisdom for
Our Leaders

A Mighty Force
Moves Russia

After the
Tsunami



Friends Overseas

“What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world.” JAMES 1.27 (GNT)

In early October, we were deeply saddened to learn of the murder of one of our beloved colleagues at the Palestinian Bible Society bookshop in Gaza City, Rami Ayyad. Please keep Rami's widow, Pauline, and their three very young children in your prayers for protection, provision and healing.



Later in the month, we had happier news. We were blessed by a visit to Bible House from The Rev. Dr. George Joseph, the auxiliary secretary in Mumbai for the Bible Society of India. That Bible Society is the largest in the world, with 16 auxiliaries (or branches). This is not perhaps surprising, because India's population is three times that of the U.S.

Mumbai is in the most populous and commercial part of the country, where just walking down the street can be a challenge. Rev. Joseph ministers God's Word to those in great need of care and contact. Among them are some 12 million people who are blind, 8 million who are infected with HIV/AIDS and many more who are destitute, including refugees from Bangladesh.

Rev. Joseph was in New York to preach at an Indian church and went on to preach at two more in Dallas. Here in the U.S., the Christian Indian population is thriving and just about every denomination is represented, he says. Back in India, there is also good reason for hope: The Christian population represents 7% of the whole and is on the rise.

I hope you are heartened by this issue's story about ministry to vulnerable children around the world. Thanks to your support, the American Bible Society is supplying hundreds of thousands of New Testaments to unchurched kids through Operation Christmas Child, the Salvation Army and Winning Our World International (WOW), an evangelistic outreach to urban youth.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support. I'm looking forward to what will happen in the year of our Lord, 2008.



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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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Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

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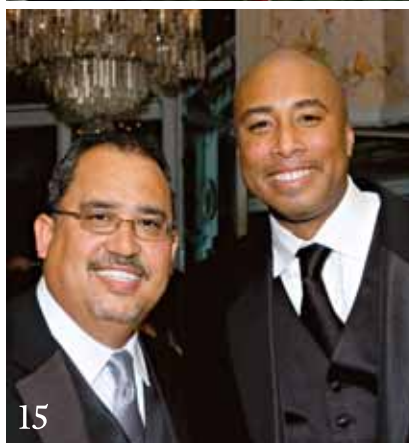
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SHARE YOUR STORY

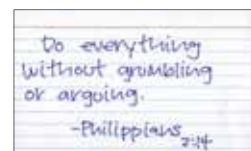
Classroom of One

Todd Agnew, a Christian musician famous for his cutting-edge indie rock, talks to www.shareyourstorynow.org.

I hit a real tough time. I thought I was going to get married and it didn't work out. It hit Christmas season. I was doing youth ministry and wasn't very good at it — it was just rough.

And I couldn't be part of [my students'] lives because they all had to study for finals. I finally said, "You know what, if they're going to study, I'm going to study." But what should I study? I decided to memorize Philippians. While everybody else was studying, I was going to study this.

So I'd go get on the treadmill in my apartment every day. I'd put out all my note cards, and I'd sit with it. And I ended up memorizing the entire book of Philippians.



And to this day it's one of the most powerful things I've done in my life. Not because I got to go impress people with it, or because I taught amazing sermons after that. But when you place the Word of God in your heart, he is faithful to place it in your life.

Day after day after day, things would come up in conversations and I would go — I know the answer to that! I would be able to pull from this, because by me putting it in my heart, God was able to stir it into my life. 🙏

COVER PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER



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 866.895.4448.

Update FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

THAILAND After the Storm

>>The waves that brought devastation to Southeast Asia in late 2004 brought change to the people living along the coast — not all of which was bad. Since the tsunami, **there has been significant church growth among the Urak Lawoi** (the “Sea Gypsies”), who have in the past been slow to respond to the Christian message.

United Bible Societies Translation Consultant **Dr. Stephen Pattimore**, speaking from Thailand, says there has been a new receptiveness to the Bible message in the past few years: “In living memory, [the sea] has been their only source of livelihood, but now it can no longer be trusted, and anxious eyes are watching from the beach at all times. Perhaps this fracture of their worldview has led to their greater openness to the liberating message of the love of God.”



FULL BODY IMMERSION. Many of the Urak Lawoi of Thailand have embraced Christ in the years since the tsunami.

CHINA

Score One for Duan

>>Many Chinese sports fans pin their hopes on athlete **Han Duan**. Because of her outstanding performance in the recent Four Nations women’s soccer tournament, she receives extensive media coverage. Han uses this exposure to **share her Christian journey**.

“No matter where I go, I have my Bible with me,” says Han Duan. “I love to read the Bible because in it there are important lessons to be learned every day.”



HAN DUAN is a top player who inspires with her faith.

The United Bible Societies used a recent tournament where Han played to promote the Bible. “We supported the Provincial Christian Councils in producing 150,000 copies of Mark’s Gospel,” says program manager **Tan Tan Yeo**.



ON HAND TO HONOR Latino leaders are Jaime Cardinal Alamino, Edward Cardinal Egan and Theodore Cardinal E. McCarrick.

gala honored former New York Yankee baseball player Bernie Williams; **Jaime Cardinal Ortega Alamino**, archbishop of Havana, Cuba; **Maria Elena Girone**, from the Puerto Rican Family Institute; **Father Joseph P. Parkes** of Cristo Rey New York High School; and Chick-fil-A, which closes all its restaurant locations on Sundays (Atlanta franchise owner **Alex Rodriguez** accepted the award on behalf of the company).

A representative from **Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s office** was there to read a proclamation to make the day of the event The Bible in Hispanic America Day: “We commend the American Bible Society — The Bible in Hispanic America in particular — for providing our Spanish-speaking residents with the means to pursue their spiritual selves.”

Proceeds that were raised during the gala are being used to fund programs such as Encounter with the Bible (*Lectio Divina*) and La Biblia Es Mi Guía Bible advocacy program.

NATIONAL

Hispanic Leaders Honored

>>More than 250 people, including **Edward Cardinal Egan**, the archbishop of New York, and salsa legend **Willie Colón**, gathered in New York City to honor the work of leaders within the Hispanic community. The second annual **Bible in Hispanic America**

BAPTISM: PHOTO BY RATH LEKHAVAT; SOCCER: PHOTO COURTESY OF HAN DUAN; CLERGY: PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER; OPPOSITE PAGE: PHOTO BY GARY SCHUTZ

Relight the Fire

>> In 1857 a New Yorker of Dutch descent, **Jeremiah Lanphier**, began lunchtime prayer meetings in lower Manhattan. **Those meetings sparked a spiritual fire** that brought 1 million people to faith during the 18 months of its heyday. On the weekend of September 21–23, 2007, some 1,100 people gathered in New York City to celebrate and pray at **the 150th anniversary of the**

incredible Fulton Street Revival.

At the opening dinner, a statue of a seated Jeremiah Lanphier was unveiled. Sculptor **Lincoln Fox** explained that the empty place on the park bench is meant to be taken by any

passerby. That person will sense “his pulse quicken as he feels [Jeremiah’s] spirit.” For three months the sculpture will be in front of Bible House on Broadway, before traveling to other New York City locations.

LANDMARK FOR TRANSLATION

September marked a milestone in biblical scholarship: the publication of *A History of Bible Translation*, edited by Philip A. Noss. The 521-page paperback was painstakingly prepared in collaboration with 17 biblical scholars, linguists, theoreticians and translators, and features illustrations from the Bible Society Library and Archives. *A History of Bible Translation* will be the first volume in a series that tells the story behind the story of the Bible, from the Septuagint and the Vulgate to the present-day versions, including the goal of translating the Bible into more than 2,000 languages. 📖



A TRIBUTE to Jeremiah Lanphier

Bible Q&A

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



I seem to remember reading when God wanted to judge Israel, he would give them leaders who were either young and inexperienced or female. Is this true?

— Ms. C. JOY HULTING, AURORA, ILL.

Although I am unable to locate the specific Scripture, I can give you passages where God gave women leadership.

Around 587 B.C., women in Israel held status and freedom equal to that of men. Israel was a patriarchal world, but women served as prophets (Exodus 15.20; 2 Kings 22.14-20), judges (Judges 4–5) and queens (1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 11) and were sometimes honored as models of wisdom (Samuel 14, 20.16-22).

The book of Judges is a collection of stories about leadership, and there are two accounts of the defeat of the Canaanite confederacy by Deborah and Barak. Deborah challenges Barak to lead against the Canaanites. Deborah demonstrates great aplomb and is the heroic one in the story — at the expense of Barak.

The words “the disciple whom Jesus loved” in John’s Gospel, referring to John himself, trouble me. Isn’t this the epitome of conceit?

— Ms. CARYL A. REID, LEESBURG, FLA.

Congratulations on raising a question that has sparked many lively discussions through the years. The traditional view

is that the author of John’s Gospel is John, son of Zebedee. Another hypothesis is that the author is an anonymous follower of Jesus.

It is widely held that no one would presume to call himself “the beloved disciple.” Some scholars agree that John’s Gospel was probably dictated to a scribe and the use of “beloved” can be attributed to the scribe.

I came across a 1962 article about a finger-powered phonograph that played Scriptures in 40 languages.

Does anyone still make this kind of device?

— JOHN, VIA E-MAIL

In the late 1950s, the American Bible Society devised the finger-fono, powered by the turn of one finger. The finger-fono produced sound

through a diaphragm (an acoustic device) and a needle located in the arm, and required no electric power, spring or mechanical device. It was made of plastic, inexpensive to produce, easy to ship and practical for use in all climates. The purpose of the finger-fono was to make the Scriptures available to people who could not read.

The American Bible Society continued to distribute finger-fonos until the mid-1960s, when communications and technology had improved and more areas had access to electricity. 📖

The book of Judges is a collection of stories about leadership.

◆ 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.

GRATEFUL SMILES.
Children in Ecuador clutch
boxes from Operation
Christmas Child.





A Child's Faith

Our ministry partners help young people around the world discover Scripture.

| BY DAVID SINGER

The party for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is coming to a close in the Nasugbu municipality of the Philippines. The brightly colored packages from America have been distributed and gleefully opened. Joy lights up each young face. And each pair of little hands now holds a new and precious possession: a Bible to own and cherish from the American Bible Society.

"The Lord has given us such a blessing," says Billy Riel, whose five children are among the happy recipients of the shoe boxes. "It has been good for my whole family. I'm grateful that God has brought us together for this. If it were not for him, my kids wouldn't have gotten these gifts. More than anything else, though, my children got copies of God's Word. Through their Bibles they will learn right from wrong."

There is something extraordinary about happiness on the face of a child. All the more wonderful when the source of that joy is Scripture. The American Bible Society has been active in searching out new partners who are also eager to provide Scripture as a key ingredient in ministering to young people — sharing the Word by speaking to the next generation.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

The excitement that Mr. Riel expresses shows the power of these new partnerships. This type of outreach also reaches parents through their love for the children.

Operation Christmas Child, a program of Samaritan's Purse, draws families together around God's Word and targets unchurched children from poor neighborhoods. At the OCC parties, children receive shoe boxes from church members donating from Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand and the U.S.

Each shoe box is packed with clothing, small toys, candy, crayons, school supplies, dental hygiene items, a Bible-story comic book and, if the donor of the box chooses, a photo and a personal note. OCC parties are a festive way to kick off an introductory Bible course or to honor the children who have completed it.

The partnership brings together the expertise and passions of the Mailbox Club, the American Bible Society and churches in more than 60 other countries where the boxes are given and/or received. During the 2006 season the Mailbox Club worked with OCC in 57 countries worldwide, and enrolled 1,349,322 children in a primer Bible program. That same year the American Bible Society contributed 400,000 New Testaments to children who had completed the program. Each received Scriptures in his or her native language.

In the U.S., tens of thousands of Christians have discovered that participating in OCC is an opportunity to become involved in global evangelism. Any church can take part; all that is required are empty shoe boxes, a variety of small gifts and a desire to bring God's love to hurting children in all parts of the world.

The results would melt the hardest heart. In Mr. Riel's case, since his children began a three-month Mailbox Club Bible study program, they've been reading the

Patrick Patey looks over a gymnasium exploding with children at the back-to-school bash near Dallas-Fort Worth. Some 300 or more of them are trying to hook plastic fish, getting their faces painted, shooting baskets and having an all-around good time. The children, who attended a Salvation Army summer camp, are going to receive a knapsack filled with school supplies — and a *Contemporary English Version* Bible from the Bible Society.

"It's a fantastic day," says Mr. Patey, who is a member of the Dallas-Fort Worth Salvation Army Metroplex Command. "Most of these kids are from single-parent homes with six or seven siblings. I can remember my nervousness each year, facing the first day of school. These kids face the same anxiety but without having proper school supplies." Mr. Patey appreciates the assistance in providing each of the children with a Bible, which for some children will be their first book. "Nothing could be more important. Nothing else can even come close," he says. "We're so deeply grateful for our partnership with the Bible Society."

American Bible Society Bibles are also given out at the beginning of some of these camps. The letters of thanks from the children are touching. From Camp Mount Craggs near Los Angeles, a girl named Jennifer wrote, "I'm so happy now that I have

Each pair of little hands holds a new and precious possession: a Bible to own and cherish.

Bible together as a family every day and attending church together.

BACK TO SCHOOL

There are other program partnerships through which the American Bible Society is able to extend Christ's love to poor children. In the U.S., the Bible Society works with the Salvation Army to provide Scriptures at back-to-school bashes at the end of summer camp programs.

WOW JAM FIESTAS



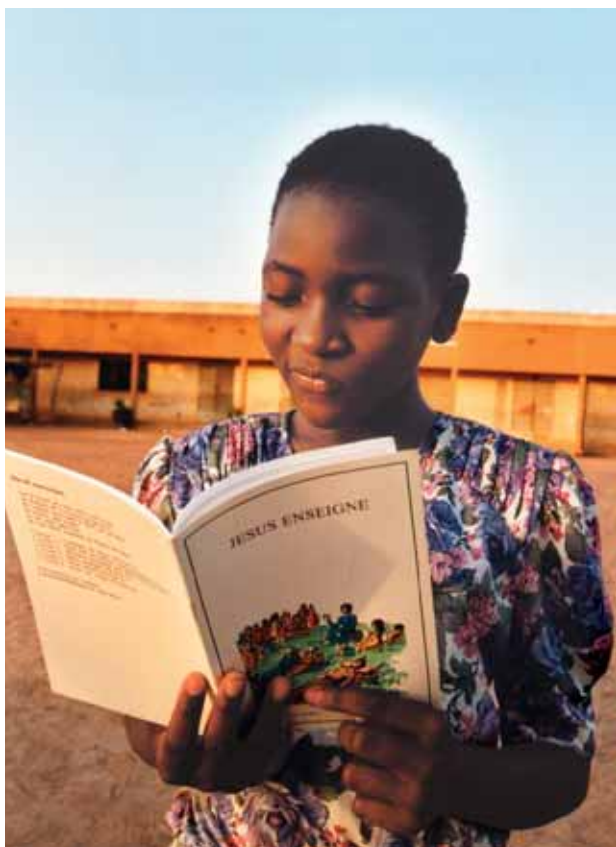
Winning Our World International (WOW) grew out of Steven Tavani's vision to create an evangelistic outreach to urban youth. During the past 18 years, it has engaged a million people with the gospel. "WOW Jam events put the church to work," he says. "They bring the church to the streets and the streets back into the church."

Volunteers from dozens of churches recently brought a thousand people to an afternoon of free food, contests and recreation at Dilibos Soccer Park in the heart of the Hispanic community of Fresno, Calif. The fun included family photos, haircuts, free groceries, bicycle repair and manicures. It was followed by moving song, tears, testimony and preaching.

More than 300 WOW Jams such as this have reached hearts in more than 40 cities, engaging more than 200 churches. This past summer, thanks to the Bible Society and its supporters, 25,000 people who made decisions for Christ went away with CEV New Testaments, 8,000 of them in Spanish.

OPENING: PHOTO BY PAUL SHERAR/COURTESY OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE; WOW JAM: PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER

EMBRACING THE WORD comes easily for these children in the Philippines, who received Bible workbooks through Samaritan's Purse and the Bible Societies (left). Scripture distribution projects around the world supply Portions designed for children, like this one being read by a girl in Burkina Faso (right).



my own Bible to read. . . . I will always remember this summer when I read my Bible." From Camp Gilmore near San Diego, Khadija wrote, "I just want to say thank you for giving us Bibles so we can learn, know, love and trust the Word of God. And if you obey it, then you will be okay once again."

READ AND LEARN

Hanny White was in charge of the second grade Sunday school class at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Coatesville, Pa. Her church provided each student with a *Good News Bible*. The children would faithfully do the Bible reading assignments she gave, but she began to wonder what would make them read the Bible on their own.

The breakthrough came from an unexpected place. Ms. White had one autistic student who never read the assignments but who loved to hear books read to him. After some research, she found the colorful *Read and Learn* picture Bible, produced by the American Bible Society in partnership with

Scholastic, the world's largest publisher of educational materials for children. Designed and written for four- to seven-year-olds, the *Read and Learn Bible* consists of 102 paraphrased Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments, and each story is given over



REACHING EVERY CHILD means finding innovative approaches, like the one in the *Read and Learn Bible*.

largely to lively illustrations in vibrant color.

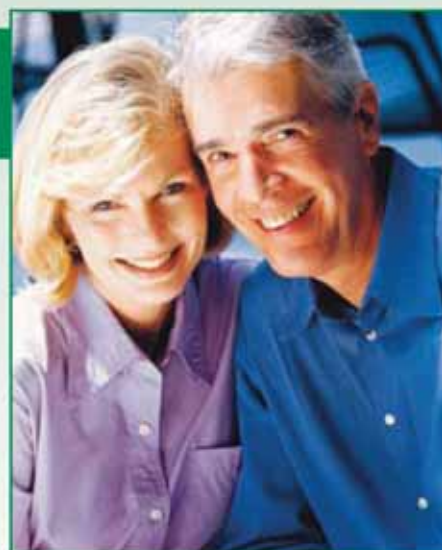
Ms. White bought a copy for her special student, who quickly took to reading it on his own. So she recommended to the Christian Education Committee that the *Read and Learn Bible* be adopted for the whole class. The results last year exceeded her expectations.

What made this Bible most effective, Ms. White found, were the sections in the back that parents could read to their children. Topics included Teaching Forgiveness (Genesis 31-33), Serving Others (John 13), Tell Jesus' Story (Luke 2.8-14), Facing the Fear of Life (Luke 8) and Wondering About Wonder (Genesis 1-2). "Parents knew the Bible stories but didn't know where they were located in the Bible," says Ms. White. "One mother, Heather Clark, told me she'd learned a lot about the Bible by reading it nightly to her daughter, Makayla. So this Bible became useful education for both kids and parents."

Four months after its introduction, the *Read and Learn Bible* became Scholastic's No. 1 seller. It has been so successful that Scholastic worked with the Bible Society to build a family of educational Bible materials around it, including a Spanish-language version and an interactive CD that allows children to construct their own illustrations for 30 Bible stories.

From new publications to time-tested partnerships, at home and abroad, the Bible Society is walking every road to make sure that young people can encounter the life-changing message of the Bible. ■

American Bible Society



Announces the **FLEX**

The new Flexible Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity—the FLEX—is an excellent giving vehicle for retirement planning and supplemental income while supporting the Bible cause. You can create a FLEX starting at age 50 with as little as \$5,000.00.

The FLEX benefits YOU:

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55	\$ 3,523	5.9	\$ 590	\$ 234	7.3	\$ 730	\$ 268	10.0	\$ 1,000	\$ 324
65	\$ 4,323	6.4	\$ 640	\$ 296	8.4	\$ 840	\$ 354	11.8	\$ 1,180	\$ 454
Two-Life										
Sample Flexible Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity of \$10,000										
55/55	\$ 3,282	5.3	\$ 530	\$ 201	6.9	\$ 690	\$ 228	9.3	\$ 930	\$ 271
65/65	\$ 3,494	6.0	\$ 600	\$ 270	7.6	\$ 760	\$ 316	10.5	\$ 1,050	\$ 395

*Sample calculations are based on a cash gift dated October 31, 2007 with an AFR of 6.2% and monthly payments. \$10,000 minimum required to receive monthly payments, otherwise payments are quarterly, semi-annually or annually. The minimum age is 50 and the minimum amount is \$5,000.

Call today and speak with an American Bible Society representative about the FLEX at 1-800-549-3328 (free information with no cost or obligation).



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Presidential Wisdom

Since the earliest days of the United States, those charged with leading the nation have found wisdom and courage in God's Word. In the spirit of Presidents' Day, we offer the following words from those who would have been in frequent need of a steady and trustworthy guide.



“Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection . . .” —**GEORGE WASHINGTON** ☞ “The

Bible carries with it the history of the creation, the fall and redemption of man, and discloses to him, in the infant born at Bethlehem, the legislator and savior of



the world.” —**JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**, addressing the American Bible Society ☞ “We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government . . . according to

the Ten Commandments of God.” —**JAMES MADISON** ☞ “That book,

sir, is the rock on which our republic rests.” —**ANDREW JACKSON** on his deathbed, referring

to the Bible ☞ “In regard to the Great Book, I have only to say that it is the best



Book that God has given to man.” —**ABRAHAM LINCOLN** ☞ “Almost every

man who by his life's work added to the sum of human achievement of which the race is proud has based his life

work largely upon the teachings of the Bible . . .” —**THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

☞ “When you have read the Bible, you know it is the word of God, because it is the key to your heart, your own happiness and your own duty.” —**WOODROW WILSON**





A Mighty Force

The Bible at work in Russia

BY LIZ SMITH



Czar Alexander I

The Bible Society in Russia was founded in 1813, during the period of history recounted in *War and Peace*. As the story goes, in 1812 the mighty Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte and his 600,000 troops

invaded Russia and ran an offense against the Russian army — which was only half the size of the French.

According to Anatoly A. Rudenko, executive director of the Bible Society in Russia, in the middle of this conflict Czar Alexander I had an encounter with his friend the Grand Duke Alexander Golitzin. They were discussing the war when Golitzin's Bible fell from a table and landed on the floor, open to Psalm 91. The duke read the Psalm aloud, assuring the czar of God's support and defense. The next day the czar heard Psalm 91 read at a church service and took it as a sign that God was real and would defend the Russian people.

He searched for a Bible for personal reading but could not find one anywhere in his palaces. Finally, his wife (Princess Louise of Baden, Germany) gave him a French New Testament because there were no contemporary Russian translations. As Alexander began reading the Scriptures daily, he found the wisdom, courage and strength to inspire his defense.

Winter arrived, and the tide reversed. The Russian troops began advancing against the French, driving Napoléon and his regiment out of Russia. Alexander attributed the dramatic turnaround to his having God's power on his side, and in 1813 he saw to the formation of the Bible Society in Russia.

That chapter in the Russian Bible Society's history was closed only a few years later in 1825, after Nicholas I rose to the throne. And it was not until the fall of Communism that a new chapter for the Bible Society would be open for the Russian people. The Bible Society in Russia was reborn in 1990, with Mr. Rudenko at the

“Whoever goes to the LORD for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, ‘You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust.’”

PSALM 91.1, 2 (GNT)



THE COLORFUL FAITH of the Russian people is shown in the dynamic St. Basil’s Cathedral in Red Square, in military distribution programs and in quiet moments of faith (from left).

helm. According to his assistant Nikolai Kournikov, the Society’s four branches within the country are now making up for lost time: “24 hours a day, seven days a week — publishing, translating and distributing the Living Word of God.”

Each of the branches does its part. Moscow heads up publishing, sales, distribution and preparation for the *Contemporary Russian Version (CRV)*. At present, a translation of the New Testament and 14 books of the Old Testament is complete; the goal is a full Bible translation into modern Russian that is clear and understandable.

While Moscow works with the Russian language, the branch in St. Petersburg supervises translation projects for ethnic-minority languages. At present there are six such projects: the Old Testament for the Altai, Bashkir, Buryat, Chuvash, Ossetic and Yakut languages. And centers in Novosibirsk and Vladivostok are busy with Scripture distribution and sales for their regions.

Just as Czar Alexander I looked to Scripture for guidance concerning his army, the Bible Society today reaches out to the Russian armed forces, providing a guide through which they too can find strength. Garrisons are stationed all over Russia’s vast territory, often in remote areas. While some stations invite Russian Ortho-

dox clergy to counsel the soldiers, the Bible Society of Russia is there to provide nondenominational, quality study Bibles and materials.

In 2006 Scripture was distributed to the military in four areas: the Chechen Republic, Grozny, Moscow and St. Petersburg. And in 2007, Mr. Rudenko handed over sets of these Bible libraries in the Volga region as well. Now, at the end of 2007, the project is complete. In addition to Russian Orthodox chaplains, the armed forces themselves, including regional commanders, their deputies, and officers responsible for training and education, have received biblical libraries. Sets have also been placed in the chapel library of every medical and rehabilitation center.

These biblical libraries are put to good use because, as Father Alexander Borisov, president of the Bible Society in Russia, says: “Reading the Bible ensures that soldiers can discern good from evil.” The Bible Society in Russia and the Russian forces indeed have a history together. And the story has not ended: A proud tradition continues in a country that is seeing its way to the future. 📖



Grand Duke Alexander Golitzin

ST. BASIL’S: PHOTO BY ALAMY; GIRL: PHOTO BY NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA/AP/F/GETTY IMAGES; OTHER IMAGES COURTESY OF BIBLE SOCIETY IN RUSSIA

➡ For more about the international reach of the American Bible Society, visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org.



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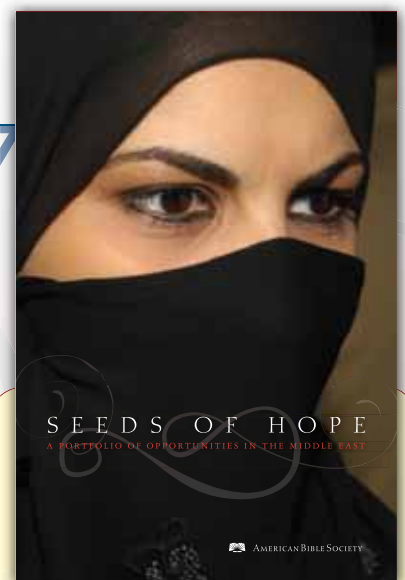


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Called to Serve

| BY LIZ SMITH

The Rev. Emilio A. Reyes is vice president for Hispanic/Latino Ministries at the American Bible Society. Despite his long commute — he travels regularly to New York from Florida — he is thankful for work that lets him express his passion for God's Word.

Q: Do you have your own church or congregation?

A: I serve as pro bono pastor at a small Hispanic congregation in Florida. It helps me to keep grounded in Christ and close to the people God has called me to serve.

Q: You also serve as vice president for Hispanic/Latino Ministries. Is there a special relationship between the American Bible Society and this population?

A: The American Bible Society has always tried to reach all peoples in the world, including Latin America and the Caribbean. Just three years after the founding of the organization, in 1819, a Spanish-language New Testament was published. This was instrumental in the establishment of churches throughout the Spanish-speaking world. More recently, the American Bible Society sponsored two of the most widely used translations: the *Reina-Valera 1960* and *Dios Habla Hoy*.

The growth of the Latino community has been steady since the 1970s. Today there are about 40 million Spanish-speaking persons in the U.S., more than the number of people in all of Central America. This makes the U.S. the fifth

largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, providing the American Bible Society with a wonderful opportunity for Bible ministry.

Q: How will you reach the Hispanic community in 2008?

A: We have two initiatives. *Lectio Divina* gives training to the Catholic faithful on the use of the Bible in their prayer life. We have partnered with Fundación Pané, and together we are visiting parishes in Los Angeles, Miami and New York City, among other places.

I want to include him in all that I do.

We also have our advocacy program, *La Biblia Es Mi Guía* (The Bible Is My Guide). When it comes to Bible reading, the Latino community is no different. Many don't read the Bible because they don't understand it, or because they think its message is irrelevant. I'm a firm believer that if people really knew what the Bible has to offer, they would read it. In order to promote Bible reading, we have partnered with several spokespersons, including Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees, and Father Alberto Cutié, a priest and well-known personality within the Hispanic community. They tell people that they have a passion, but that the Bible is



REV. EMILIO A. REYES stands with former Yankee Bernie Williams, who was honored for promoting the Bible in Hispanic America.

their guide. This should encourage people in the community to read the Bible, as it will provide direction for their lives.

Q: Do you have a favorite Bible verse to inspire you?

A: I have two key verses that speak to my heart. The first is Psalm 37.5, which says: "Give yourself to the LORD; trust in him, and he will help you." I try to literally offer myself to God on a daily basis. I seek his guidance in what I do. I don't want to be busy just for the sake of being busy. I want to be involved where he is involved. The second verse is 1 Timothy 1.12: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." God has called me to serve, and that is exactly what I want to do with my life.

Q: What should we know about the essential Emilio Reyes?

A: I want to be faithful to God. I want to include him in all that I do. I seek to have balance in my life by growing spiritually, mentally, socially and physically. That's a tall order! ■

◆ You can obtain more information about Hispanic/Latino Ministries by visiting us at www.americanbible.org.



"Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim his greatness; tell the nations what he has done. . . . Be glad that we belong to him; let all who worship him rejoice." PSALM 105:1, 3 (GNT)

Please Pray

The United Bible Societies fellowship includes 145 affiliated societies and offices that work to translate, print and distribute the Scriptures in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. The fellowship is held together by prayer; countries are opened to the Bible through prayer; and the funds to translate, print and distribute Scriptures come through prayer.

BANGLADESH

Please pray for the emotional, physical and spiritual recovery of the millions affected by the devastating November cyclone. Pray also for God's love and peace to fill the hearts of young people who will attend the Bible Society's two winter events.

INDIA

Give thanks that, despite challenges, Bible work spreads far and wide. Fund-raising workshops, translation seminars and trainings for auxiliary secretaries have been conducted. We praise God for these blessings. Remember our many ongoing

translation projects, our work with special audiences and the development of audiovisual products, and pray for the continued success of the Radio Bible project.

MYANMAR

Praise God that we have received the Bibles from South Korea, India and China, and give thanks for the support. Four translation projects are now complete: Give thanks for these and also pray for the ongoing work on the 19 others. Ask God to bless the efforts of those working to build a democratic society in

our country, and pray for new openings for Bible ministry.

PERU

Please pray for the survivors of the earthquake that took some 500 lives. Thanks be to God for our Scriptures in more than 50 languages, our new products, increased Bible distribution and giving to our theater production of Mark's Gospel. Pray for continuing funds for other programs, including the revision of the Ayacucho Quechua Bible, and for the interconfessional work with the Catholic Church and the evangelical churches. 🙏

◆ Visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org to learn more about ministry around the globe.

Endow the Light!

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105

Darkness: millions of people around the world are lost in darkness and without hope. When God's Word touches them, it opens their eyes, enabling them to see — to walk in the light.

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“Freely have you received, freely shall you give.”
MATTHEW 10.8b (GNT)

In Good Hands

BY DAVID SINGER

She was only days old when her parents abandoned her — an all-too-frequent fate of baby girls in India. It was during the monsoon season, a time when disease, scorpions and many other dangers made a tiny life even more precarious. But little Serojini (“Lotus” in English) encountered the first of many miracles that would follow: A Christian missionary found her.

She was taken to a nearby mission hospital and, after a few days, to an orphanage. There, the wet nurse caring for her took to numbing the fussy baby with opium. Again, by God’s grace, the abuse was discovered in time to avoid permanent harm.

An American missionary, Gertrude Harris, decided to rear Lotus as her own child. Her missionary colleagues in India did not approve, because Harris was going against the prevailing cultural norm in the 1920s that there be strict segregation between Americans and natives of India. Deciding to buck that tradition was costly — Harris’ mission board denied her child support. Yet Lotus was sent to a mission boarding school and later to a Christian college, with the support of Harris’ sister, Irene Kilpatric. Aunt Irene paid for the girl’s education from ninth grade through her master’s degree in social work.

While on furlough in 1939-40, Harris took Lotus to the U.S. and enrolled her at Berkeley High School. The girl’s time there was formative, largely because one of the teachers whom Lotus met, Mrs. Topping, introduced her to the idea of sponsoring needy children.

When Lotus settled in California, she followed the good example of Mrs. Topping and began sponsoring orphans



LOTUS HARRIS was adopted as a baby by a Christian missionary in India. Today, she helps orphaned children in her home country.

herself. Since 1939, she has only added more. (She currently sponsors 10.) “Most are from my home area of India. I speak their language and don’t have to work through a translator.” Yet she can relate to the children on more than a verbal communication level; she understands them as well.

“You can’t reach for the soul before the body is healed,” she explains. “The Bible Society is concerned with both. It’s a hands-on ministry.”

That’s why Lotus is pleased to honor the wishes of both her mother and her aunt by supporting the American Bible Society through charitable gift annuities and her estate plan. “My mother told me to take care of her sister and, when I die, to leave the estate to the American Bible Society,” she says.

“Now that I’m alone, the Bible Society will get everything, including my ‘accumulated junk,’” Lotus jokes. “I’m looking to the Bible Society to take care of my affairs — and me. I’m in good hands.” ■

◆ You can obtain more information about planned giving programs sponsored by the American Bible Society by visiting us at www.americanbible.org or by calling the Planned Gift Programs Department at 1.800.820.6227.

Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS



“God our Father loves us. He is kind and has given us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope.”
 2 THESSALONIANS 2.16a (CEV)

JANUARY 2008 · LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AND CONFESS JESUS AS LORD

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 COLOSSIANS 1.1-23	2 COLOSSIANS 1.24-2.5	3 COLOSSIANS 2.6-23	4 COLOSSIANS 3.1-17	5 PSALM 2
6 EPIPHANY MATTHEW 2.1-15	7 MATTHEW 2.16-23	8 MATTHEW 3.1-17	9 MATTHEW 4.12-25	10 MATTHEW 8.1-17	11 MATTHEW 8.18-34	12 MATTHEW 9.1-17
13 MATTHEW 9.18-38	14 MATTHEW 10.1-25	15 MATTHEW 10.26-42	16 MATTHEW 11.1-30	17 MATTHEW 16.1-12	18* MATTHEW 16.13-28	19 MATTHEW 17.1-21
20 ECUMENICAL SUNDAY JOHN 17.1-26	21 MATTHEW 17.22-18.5	22 MATTHEW 18.6-20	23 MATTHEW 18.21-35	24 MATTHEW 19.13-30	25 ACTS 9.1-25	26 ACTS 9.26-43
27 ACTS 10.1-33	28 ACTS 10.34-48	29 ACTS 11.1-18	30 ACTS 11.19-30	31 ACTS 12.1-25	*WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS	

FEBRUARY 2008 · LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AND COME TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 MARK 1.21-39	2 COLOSSIANS 4.2-18
3 HABAKKUK 1.1-17	4 HABAKKUK 2.1-20	5 HABAKKUK 3.1-19	6 ASH WEDNESDAY* MATTHEW 6.1-18	7 PSALM 51	8 PSALM 56	9 PSALM 57
10 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT MATTHEW 4.1-11	11 PSALM 91	12 PSALM 102	13 PSALM 106	14 PSALM 108	15 PSALM 116	16 PSALM 121
17 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT GENESIS 18.16-33	18 LAMENTATIONS 3.1-33	19 1 KINGS 3.1-15	20 1 KINGS 8.1-21	21 1 KINGS 8.22-40	22 1 KINGS 8.41-53	23 1 KINGS 8.54-66
24 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT PSALM 25	25 PSALM 27	26 PSALM 28	27 PSALM 30	28 PSALM 40	29 PSALM 41	*WESTERN CHURCHES

MARCH 2008 · LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 GENESIS 18.1-15
2 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT GENESIS 22.1-19	3 GENESIS 28.10-22	4 EXODUS 19.1-25	5 2 SAMUEL 7.1-17	6 2 SAMUEL 7.18-29	7 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PSALM 89.1-37	8 PSALM 31
9 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT ISAIAH 44.1-28	10 ORTHODOX LENT ISAIAH 45.1-25	11 ISAIAH 48.1-22	12 JEREMIAH 32.1-25	13 JEREMIAH 32.26-44	14 DANIEL 3.1-30	15 DANIEL 6.1-28
16 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY* MATTHEW 21.1-17	17 MATTHEW 21.18-46	18 MATTHEW 26.1-35	19 MATTHEW 26.36-75	20 MAUNDY THURSDAY MATTHEW 27.1-26	21 GOOD FRIDAY MATTHEW 27.27-56	22 MATTHEW 27.57-66
23 EASTER SUNDAY* MATTHEW 28.1-20	24 1 CORINTHIANS 15.1-34	25 1 CORINTHIANS 15.35-58	26 HEBREWS 3.1-19	27 HEBREWS 4.1-13	28 HEBREWS 4.14-5.10	29 HEBREWS 6.1-20
30 PSALM III	31 PSALM 118	*WESTERN CHURCHES				

PHOTO BY JAN GRUENE/GETTY IMAGES



[In Memoriam]

“Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are.” MATTHEW 6.19-21 (GNT)

MY PARENTS, the Reverends William
and Mildred Bateman
GIVEN BY MRS. ALICE HAMLIN

MY SISTER, Louise Doris Bechlein
GIVEN BY THE TRUST OF HARRY E. BECHLEIN

MY AUNT, Mrs. Myrtle Rosenquist Carmichael
GIVEN BY MS. ELAINE ROSENQUIST

MY FATHER, Jere Lawrence Crook Jr.
GIVEN BY SENTER C. CROOK

MY MOTHER, Mary W. H. Erickson
GIVEN BY R. ELIZABETH ERICKSON

Helen M. Hahn
GIVEN BY BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MY WIFE, Mrs. Juliet (Carrell) Leiper Hall
GIVEN BY DR. HOMER J. HALL

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R.
and Matilda McKinley Komyati
GIVEN BY T. RICHARD AND ELEANOR KOMYATI ROBE

MY DAUGHTER, Pastor Janet Landwehr
GIVEN BY MRS. JANE E. MANGOLD

MY FATHER-IN-LAW, Henry Smith Leiper
GIVEN BY DR. HOMER J. HALL

MY MOTHER, Kyna Mayers
GIVEN BY SHALYMAR JENSEN

Mr. and Mrs. Hi van Pham
GIVEN BY DR. LISA XUAN HUONG THI PHAM

MY HUSBAND, Mr. Thomas V. Racho
GIVEN BY MRS. THOMAS V. RACHO

MY WIFE, Ethel Swearingen
GIVEN BY THE TRUST OF MOSS M. SWEARINGEN

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