

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

# Record

Winter 2010

## *Living the Gospel in the Middle East*

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World's Greatest Gift Catalog 13

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America's Earliest Bibles 18

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Hope for Widows in India 22



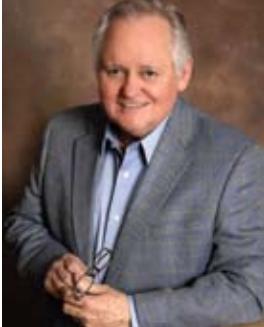
AMERICAN  
BIBLE  
SOCIETY

[ABSRecord.com](http://ABSRecord.com)

# The Greatest Gift

*"This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2.11 (CEV)*

**E**specially with Christmas just around the corner, it's good to be reminded of the precious gift we have in the Word of God. Honestly, it's hard for me to imagine not getting the chance to discover the amazing love of Jesus waiting in God's Word.



Sadly, this is the unseen reality for so many around the world today. For each life unreached by the Bible, living with disease, in harm's way, neglected, without food or shelter — the wonder and glory of a God who deeply loves them remains hidden this Christmas.

But let me encourage you that God's Word is alive and active this holiday season. Whether it is in the global expansion of Scripture across India (p. 22), the powerful renewal right in Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Lord (p. 8) or thousands of people discovering Scripture in our nation's first capital (p. 5) — lives are being actively changed.

I hope these stories encourage and inspire you, too. Behind every one of them is the life-changing message of the Scriptures.

Thank you for all you do to help bring the world's greatest gift of God's Word to so many this Christmas and into the new year.

R. Lamar Vest

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

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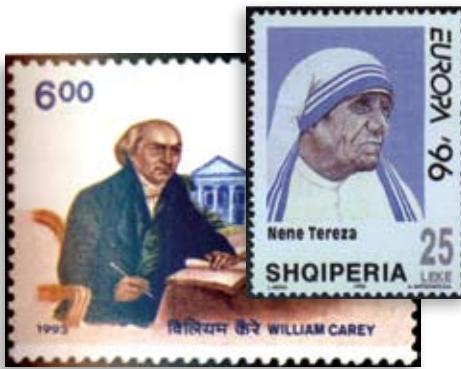
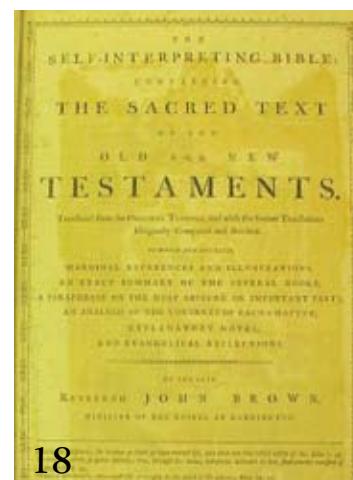
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## Bible Exhibition in India

*"Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you." 1 Peter 3.15b (GNT)*

Postage stamps on display at the Bible Society of India's museum visually convey the expedition the Bible has made around the world. "Bible Exhibition" reads the sign that invites the curious off the street for a look inside to see them and much more. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by larger than life faces from history — including Abraham Lincoln, Billy Graham, Mother Teresa — and quotes about what the Bible means or meant to them.

The Rev. Sahu Surendra, curator and senior manager, says, "The word 'exhibition' seems more intriguing to young people than some old, dusty museum." Day to day, an average of 25 people come through, including schoolchildren, students and adults from Christian, Hindu and Muslim backgrounds. Rev. Sahu is always on hand for questions.

Passersby often stop to ask about the Bible and God, which Rev. Sahu graciously answers no matter where it leads. Some young people are in difficult situations as newly-marrieds, or starting out in their careers, and they want to talk to someone. Rev. Sahu feels it's his privilege, and God-given opportunity, to listen and share his life experience and the hope of Jesus with each one.

*The William Carey Museum (named for the "Father of Modern Missions") is located at the Bible Society of India in Bangalore.*

# Update

## FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

### NATIONAL

#### Christmas Angels

Nine-year-old Elijah misses his daddy desperately. His mom took him to visit his dad in prison, but it overwhelmed Elijah and he never went back.

The American Bible Society is joining forces with Angel Tree®, a program of Prison Fellowship, at Christmas to supply Scriptures to 40,000 children, like Elijah, and the little girl pictured below, and their parents and caregivers. This partnership reaches children of the incarcerated who live in remote places around the U.S. where churches may or may not participate in Angel Tree®. Each child receives a box with presents and an American Bible Society Scripture resource.



Recipient of Angel Tree® gift

Incarcerated parents and day-to-day caregivers receive Scripture resources with coupons that they can send back to request a free Bible from ABS. Angel Tree® goes beyond Christmas by encouraging the year-round spiritual well-being of these children by helping to place them in Christian summer camps and mentoring programs.

#### Launching God's Word for Justice

Working alongside the Christian relief and development organization, World Vision, ABS launched a *The Poverty & Justice Bible* to help bring focus to the Scripture's deeply-rooted message of compassion and care for the world's poor. By highlighting over 2,000 key verses and providing an in-depth study tool, *The Poverty and Justice Bible* provides practical advice on how to challenge poverty and injustice both at home and around the world.

As World Vision president, Richard Stearns, notes, "*The Poverty and Justice Bible* demonstrates that when it comes to today's most pressing social issues, God got there first." Learn more at [JusticeBible.org](http://JusticeBible.org).

#### NEW YORK Thanksgiving Baskets



ABS staff members Tom Trageser and Frank Gomez, and others, packed Thanksgiving baskets for inner-city families in New York City.

This Thanksgiving, ABS staff assembled 34 baskets of food to give to Metro Ministries, a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to serving inner-city children and their families in New York City. Each basket included non-perishable Thanksgiving food items for a family of four.

#### Orthodox Patriarch Visits Bible House



The American Bible Society welcomed His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of the Orthodox Church to Bible House on October 30 with an exhibition at MOBIA.

"The Green Patriarch," more officially known as His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, was welcomed to Bible House in October. He is the spiritual leader of the Orthodox church and is also known for his concern for the environment. For more than seven years, ABS has worked alongside the Orthodox Church to publish Bible literature for children and adults consistent with the Church's faith and doctrine. Just introduced is the first ever Military New Testament for the more than 25,000 active Orthodox personnel serving in the U.S. armed forces around the world.

Honoring the Patriarch's visit, an exhibition was organized by the Museum of Biblical Art (MOBIA) and features icons, Sacred Scripture, a liturgical Psalter, maps and rare architectural portraits of Constantinople. Also on display is a photo and video display of the Patriarch's environmental work. These items will remain on view at MOBIA through January 24.

[See the video at  
ABSRecord.com/patriarch](#)

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY WASH JR.  
Patriarch Bartholomew by THROWINGLIGHT.COM

PHOTO OF HOPE AWARDS BY MARK ROGERS.

#### ABS and Bowery Mission Reach out to Homeless

In partnership with the Bowery Mission, the American Bible Society is reaching out to more than 15,000 homeless adults in New York City with programs that will empower their lives with the Word of God. During Thanksgiving, and in January, when record numbers of homeless people are often feeling their lowest, ABS is providing "God is Always With You" Scripture Portions, alongside a hot meal, to some 4,000 people. The Rev. Emilio A. Reyes, head of the outreach department at ABS, said, "This is an awesome opportunity to impact the lives of hurting people in our community by giving them the chance to exchange homelessness and spiritual brokenness for sound Christian living."

#### PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia = BIBLE CITY 2009



The American Bible Society was a key partner with the Philadelphia National Bible City campaign for 2009, helping to organize events and

providing free Bibles and devotional tools for youth to engage with the Scriptures.

Each year, one city is named The National Bible City as a program of The National Bible Association. On November 22, a week of free events kicked off with a concert including The Philadelphia Boys Choir, at Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ, at which ABS

provided daily Scriptures through text messaging. Center City Philadelphia was saturated with volunteers handing out the *Philadelphia Faith and Freedom Guide*, a booklet that included "76" biblical texts to read along a walking tour of the many historic sites in Philadelphia.

Some 100,000 copies of "The Story of Never Giving Up," a Bible reading guide designed for young adults, were distributed throughout the Philadelphia Catholic School System, city churches and community outreach service programs.

On display at the historic Westminster Seminary in Glenside, Pa., was the first English Bible printed in America by Robert Aitken\*, in Philadelphia, 1782, on loan from the American Bible Society.

\*See Treasures story on page 18.

#### TEXAS Hope Awards

The American Bible Society and *WORLD Magazine* co-sponsored the "Hope Awards for Effective Compassion," an event that recognized and celebrated small Christian not-for-profit organizations that work in big ways to tangibly share the gospel

with those in need. The Hope Award Grand Prize went to Forgiven Ministry of Taylorsville, N. C. Also recognized as Hope Awards finalists were Snappin' Ministries of Oconomowic, Wis., and CrossOver Ministry of Richmond, Va. The event took place in Arlington, Texas, on October 16.



Pictured left to right: Joey Pierce, ABS; Hope Award Winners Scottie and Jack Barnes, founders of Forgiven Ministry; Marvin Olasky, *WORLD Magazine*, and Simon Barnes, ABS (no relation to Scottie and Jack).

Forgiven Ministry, Inc. is a North Carolina ministry to inmates and their families that was founded by Scottie Barnes, herself the child of a prisoner. She hopes to narrow that gap for other children through a program, "One Day With God," for inmates and family members, and other programs to train volunteer mentors.

#### MUSEUM OF BIBLICAL ART THE ART OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE ALTARPIECES OF MEDIEVAL SPAIN



The production of religious art in late-medieval Spain was a complex, cooperative relationship between Christian and Jewish artists. Jewish and Christian artists worked side by side in studios producing both *retablos* (large multi-paneled altarpieces), as well as Latin and Hebrew manuscripts. The exhibition tells the story of this fascinating collaboration and provides a glimpse into these artistic communities.

The exhibition is on view through May 30, 2010, at MOBIA, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY.

## INTERNATIONAL

## AFRICA

## Equipping Churches for West Africa with Don Moen



Don Moen

In October and November, the Bible Society partnered with Don Moen's national "I Believe There is More" tour to help bring God's Word and new churches to West Africa. Don Moen describes himself as a song writer and worship leader who "helps people experience God's presence in a new and fresh way." Hundreds signed on to help provide Scripture outreach tools, Bible listening groups and the vital distribution of God's Word.

As Don noted, "I can't think of a more precious gift to bring to those who are deeply hurting and separated from the gospel." More information at [Moen.AmericanBible.org](http://Moen.AmericanBible.org).



Valeria Pandzic, Croatian Bible Society, 2009.

## BOLIVIA

## Strengthening Marriages in Bolivia

Divorce rates country-wide have reached an all-time high in Bolivia; it's nearly doubled since 2002. The Bolivian Bible Society (SBB) is equipping Catholic and Protestant churches with biblical materials to strengthen pastoral and counseling services for married and engaged couples for 24 months. The SBB is also equipping priests and pastors at 400 churches with biblical resources to strengthen their counseling and discipleship programs for marrieds and their families. The causes for divorce are physical or psychological mistreatment, adultery, abandonment, insult and separation for over two years.



Sugar cane cutters receiving Scriptures from the Bolivian Bible Society.

## CAMEROON

## Scripture for Orphans



Eleven-year-old Idriss Segney reading an illustrated Bible donated by the Bible Society of Cameroon to an orphanage in Yaoundé, Cameroon, October 2009.

Orphanages in Cameroon are home to tens of thousands of children as a result of AIDS-related deaths and a generally high mortality rate. During 2009 and for the next two years, the Bible Society of Cameroon is making colorfully-illustrated Children's Bibles available to orphans in orphanages run by Christian organizations. In 2009, children ages 2 to 5 participated in early childhood education including learning Bible stories. Children 5 and older participated in 45-minute Bible studies three days a week, as well as 20 minutes of prayer every day before school. On Saturdays, facilitators lead two-hour Bible studies that focus on God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ.

PHOTO OF DON MOEN COURTESY OF DON MOEN; PHOTOS BY MAJLAŽ CRNIVEC, BIBLE SOCIETY OF SLOVENIA; JAN PEDERSEN; JOAQUIM DASSONVILLE

## CROATIA SNAPSHOT

"I was in Sarajevo for the first three months of the siege [in 1992], when the city was surrounded by the Serb army," recalled Valeria Pandzic, 40, distribution officer at the Croatian Bible Society, recently. "At one point we had grenades and rockets blasting around us all day long. It was terrifying, especially as I had a two-year-old daughter and a one-year-old son. We would hide in the basement for hours. [During] those times I really used to find comfort from reading my Bible. It would make me feel calmer. I used to read Psalm 23 a lot because it gave me strength and knowledge that I can rely on God to help me through everything – even the shadow of death."

## INDIA

## Braille Scriptures Supplied to Thousands



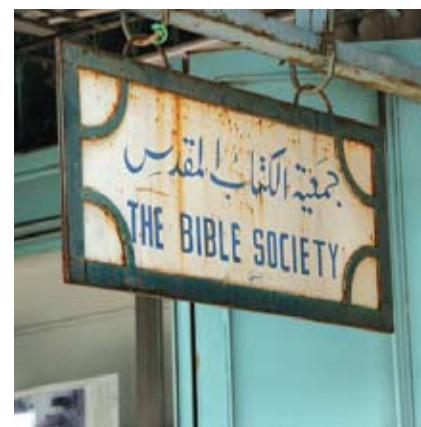
A blind man reads Scripture from a Bible Portion in Braille. The Bible Society of India provided Braille Portions in at least six Indian languages to help meet the needs of the visually-challenged population.

Religious extremism and traditional beliefs can make life hard for millions of blind Indians, who are, at times, ostracized by even their own families. While the Church is growing rapidly in India, the visually impaired remain one of its most under served members. The Bible Society of India ministered to them by supplying Scripture materials in Braille, Talking Bibles (audio recordings) and white canes to organizations working with the blind. The Scripture is available in English and local languages such as Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, Kannada and Telugu. To date, an estimated 9,500 people have received Braille Scripture and have become engaged in reading it and using it through partner churches, house prayer groups or Bible study camps organized for the visually impaired in various Indian states.

PHOTOS BY VALERIE TULL

## PALESTINE

## 5,000 Radio Listeners Hear Scriptures



Bookstore sign at the Bible Society of Palestine.

The Palestine Bible Society is in the midst of a "Proclaim It" Scripture encounter media blitz that will expose as many as 10,000 Palestinians to the Word of God when complete. Palestinians are seeing and reading Scripture at book fairs and in local newspapers as well as hearing the Bible read over radio broadcast. This program aims to give hope and encouragement in the midst of a faltering peace process, political instability and a depressed economy.

## SPAIN

## Nida School 2010 in Murcia, Spain



The Nida School engenders dynamic interactions between participants, as evident in this picture from the 2009 Nida School program held in Misano, Italy.

which immerses innovative translation and Bible scholars in an intense classroom and social exchange on the latest findings in the theory and practice of Bible translation. Applicants are required to have — or be a candidate for — a Ph.D. and be a thought leader in the field. For application procedures, please consult the NSTS web site at [ABSRecord.com/nida](http://ABSRecord.com/nida).

The Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship will hold its fourth annual Nida School for Translation Studies (NSTS) in June 2010, in Murcia, Spain. Applicants are being reviewed now for this two-week program,

# Living the Gospel

## Joining Hands in the Holy Land

STORY BY RICHARD NASH



PHOTOS BY MALORIE TULL; DAG SWEMO

*"I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me."*  
John 17.21b (GNT)

**N**abil\*, on staff with one of the Bible Societies in the Holy Land, describes the work there as "sowing seed on rocky ground." "But the Seed is being sown," Nabil declared, "because we are bringing them the living Gospel." He went on to explain, "We provide the Scripture, and as we do, we demonstrate who Jesus is with our words and actions. We are the living Gospel, introducing Christ through our lives to a watching population." We work the land and prepare it to receive and accept the Word of God – the good seed.

**"We are the living Gospel, introducing Christ through our lives to a watching population."**

The Bible Societies in Israel and the Palestinian territories comprise three autonomous groups seeking to bring the Good News to people from Jewish, Muslim and Orthodox Christian backgrounds. They are partnering in the midst of national complexity and tension. The three Bible Societies collaborate and live out their one identity in Christ, choosing to set aside political and cultural preferences for Kingdom ones. Each of the three Societies has envisioned bold initiatives for putting Scripture into people's hands and facilitating its life-changing message.

### The Peaceful Kingdom

The ancient walls of Jerusalem provide a reflective vantage point for looking toward the cities of this country, places where Jesus, God's love incarnate, dwelled and ministered. Looking to the North is Nazareth, where Dalia\*, director of the newest Bible Society in

Israel, (the Arab-Israeli Bible Society), works. Her vision is for the women of Nazareth, and other towns populated with Arab Israelis. "We have plans to produce a book that focuses on peace and reconciliation, with beautifully illustrated Scripture quotes and testimonials. It will draw the attention of young and old. Through distribution in schools and women's co-operatives, we seek to create a desire and a mindset for peace, bringing change to the area."

### Answered Prayer

In the East is the road to Jericho, where another treasure of Bible Society ministry can be found. Jesus told a story of a man attacked on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho, reminding his hearers that it was a treacherous road.

There are Sudanese, Ethiopian, Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese and others taking their place in the hustle-bustle of the market. A mass of migrant workers flows into Israel from all over the world. They live in crowded and basic conditions, finding work as caregivers for the elderly and the sick, in factories or in the hotel tourist industry. Reaching out to them are representatives of the Bible Society of Israel, making the Word of God available to those who are uprooted. They encourage those who are followers of Christ by giving Scripture tools to support their own ministry. Other passers-by, including many Israelis and Arabs, appear glad to receive Portions of Scripture, engage in a conversation and receive comfort and hope as they start to read of God's love for them in their own language.



A Sudanese woman, like Mira\*, and her child.

Today, it still has an air of danger. Yet in the city of Jericho, an Arab town in the Palestinian territories, is an amazing discovery: The Jesus House of Prayer (JHOP). The JHOP is a project recently taken on by the Palestinian Bible Society. Here women gather for instruction in the Word of God, for counsel, prayer and practical aid. Several women have already given their lives to Christ through this ministry. One woman recounts with tears of gratitude how her once disruptive son now sits quietly in class and excels as a student, following a number of prayer initiatives on his behalf. This is the power of the Word of God in action.

### Mercy for the Uprooted

A street market in Tel Aviv, to the west, hums with the noises and cries of traders drawing the attention of potential buyers. Remarkably, most of the crowd are not citizens of Israel.

\*Names changed.



Ancient walls in Jerusalem.

Crossing the border illegally they threw themselves at the mercy of the Israeli authorities. Soon they were housed with others from the Sudan in one of the poorest parts of town. Her husband was given a rare opportunity to study at a theological training institute in the North. Mira and their children, with a new one on the way, stayed behind until his return.

Mira had to give up her work as a hotel cleaner while she gave birth to her youngest. The Bible Society of Israel has a mercy ministry to refugees and soon connected with her. Mira's face lights up with gratitude when Bible Society workers arrive with food and clothing for the baby. God has provided for her again. Words of thankfulness tumble out as she talks about her life, "The Word of God is a mother for the people. It is all we need!"

## Student Center Delivers Love

In Bir Zeit, on the West Bank, the Palestinian Bible Society runs a student center. In the cool, and tastefully comfortable interior are rooms for social interaction – coffee and conversation, table games, computer workstations and garden available for students from the university.

This is a well-regarded venue for young adults from Christian and other

backgrounds to meet and nurture attitudes of reconciliation. Surely such a place promises a better future than the bitter past and uncertain present. Staff from Christian backgrounds work alongside some from other backgrounds who have found Christ through the Scriptures. Yet, some have paid a huge price not only in discovering Christ but in serving Him, too. Converts are not



**"This part of the world is in the news, unfortunately, all the time. But, we [Israeli and Palestinian Bible Societies] are making different news . . .**

**the news that Jesus wants to create – news of salvation, news of mercy, news of hope. The trend is war, separation and distrust. But in Jesus, the Bible Societies decided to be what he wants us to be to our people - that source of hope. Thank you for your prayers and support. We know you are standing with us in bringing hope to this precious part of the world."**

**Labib Madanat, Regional Secretary to the Middle East**

PHOTOS BY MALORIE TULL; MATT STEINRUCK

the only ones who have encountered persecution. Mohamed\*, who continues to follow another religion has been attacked to the point of hearing loss for attending the center. Still, the love and acceptance he discovers inside has been so important to him that he is willing to pay the price to keep going.

The living gospel that Nabil describes speaks through lives that demonstrate God's living Word. Collaborating together, the many seeds planted by the Bible Societies in Israel and the Palestinian territories are beginning to fall on good ground and bear fruit. The panoramic view of ministry in this country forms a beautiful mosaic, as believers here respond to the call to be Christ-followers together in this place. The powerful witness of teams working in concert for the sake of the Kingdom include the partners and supporters of ABS, working hand-in-hand so that many may taste and see the goodness of God.

# TRAVELOG

**Observations and photos from visits to the Bible Society in the Arab Gulf, by ABS staff member Malorie Tull.**

## DAY 1

### PRAYERS AT THE DUNES



Prayer meeting on the dunes.

It is dark, but I can still clearly make out the shadows and footprints in the sand dunes. Two lanterns precariously perched on homemade tables cast light on a group of about 50 men gathered here to worship God, clutching their Bibles, lifting their hands to their Savior, distracted only for a brief moment as my group nears, carrying video and camera equipment at our sides.

The landscape behind them is teeming with cranes and trucks, lights and construction scaffolding. These men have traveled to Dubai and have found work helping to build what will eventually be the world's largest airport. This place where they are gathered is right outside of the labor camp where they live. Their prayers are focused, the meeting purposeful. It is obvious to see that this is the most precious time of their week. And as they finish, every hand lifted to the heavens, I cannot help but feel privileged to have witnessed a group of Christians who are not only strong in their faith, but who also do not take for granted and truly understand this beautiful thing we call grace.

## DAY 2

### BEYOND THE SKYSCRAPER

Between Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the desert stretches far. I am quickly reminded that these places are not just glitz and glamour. While here, I have learned that the majority of the population in Dubai is expatriate. They are laborers and migrant workers from around the world. They work as drivers, cleaners, painters. You name it, they do it.

I was taken aback today by the extreme disparity between wealth and extreme poverty. We went to a house just hundreds

"So do not start worrying: 'Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?' (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your father in heaven knows that you need all these things." Matthew 6.31, 32 (GNT)

of yards from the skyscrapers and five star hotels. It was a very small home housing at least 15 people from Sri Lanka. Each room was packed tightly, with up to four or five people often sharing a very small space. The kitchen was a small corner of the hallway, and as we passed through, 4 women were cooking. Immediately they poured some coke and piled chips on a plate and served them to us with a warm welcome. We spent some time talking and listening to their stories. We learned of a girl who dreams to have a family, a woman with a bachelor's degree struggling to make money in a new country and a pastor dedicated to ministering not only to the people that he lives with, but other migrant communities. They all had different stories but their lives centered around their faith in Jesus Christ.

While we were talking, I asked one woman if she had a Bible, and if she wouldn't mind bringing it out to the sitting room where we had gathered. Before I knew what was happening, a group of about 8 women had laid out several floor mats, had covered their heads with colorful prayer shawls, their Bibles in hand. They began reading Scripture aloud and singing. The faith in that home is strong. The people living there have learned what is truly important in life and are unwavering in their beliefs, no matter what the cost.

## DAY 3

### OLD AND NEW

I've enjoyed visiting Qatar. The country is divided into two sections, Old Qatar and New Qatar. There have been lots of changes over the past few years, and more and more expatriates settle here in hopes of making money to send home. It is these very people who are building up the church in Qatar. We



Truck drivers in Dubai



Smiles during my visit



New Qatar through the eyes of old Qatar

The Catholic Church just recently completed the building of its church compound in the land that the government has granted. The community affectionately calls the compound "church city," as four other congregations

will have buildings there too. I have

become increasingly aware how different communities of faith experience worship across the globe.

#### DAY 4

#### PHILIP

Philip\* is a man with quiet confidence. He has a seriousness that tells of his focus and determination. He is our host in

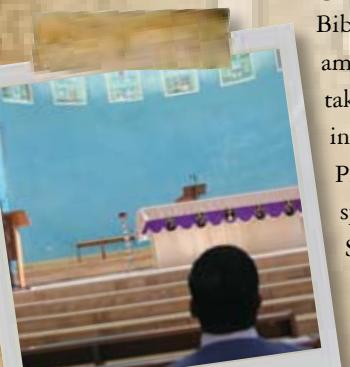
Qatar and the sole representative of the Bible Society here. I am amazed at the amount of patience that it must have taken him to accomplish all that he has in his short time here. Every book that

Philip brings into Qatar must have special approval from customs. So, the Scriptures are all imported legally into the country. Philip dreams of setting up a resource center in the church compound so that Christians will have easy access to the Bible. In a place like Qatar, where the church

is the only avenue for purchasing

a Bible or other Christian resource, it is

a big dream. I hope that one day I can return to Qatar and see the fruit of the Bible Society's labor.



Philip sitting in the church

visited several church leaders from different countries who are committed to their community here as well as to their communities and families back home. I was overwhelmed as I listened to the many faith experiences that they shared with me.

The Catholic Church just recently completed the building of its church compound in the land that the government has granted. The community affectionately calls the compound "church city," as four other congregations

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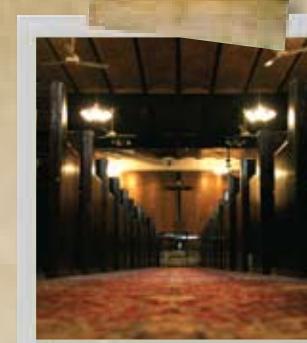
become increasingly aware how different communities of faith experience worship across the globe.

#### DAY 5

#### CENTERED IN THE COMPOUND

In Kuwait City, there is a church compound that includes the oldest church in Kuwait. Dozens of congregations of Christians from all over the world meet in the compound weekly and during the day it houses a Christian school. In the compound center is the Bible Society of Kuwait's resource center. The congregations here rely on this resource center to provide them with biblical materials. David\*, the program coordinator of the Bible Society, together with his staff, work hard to do just that. ☀

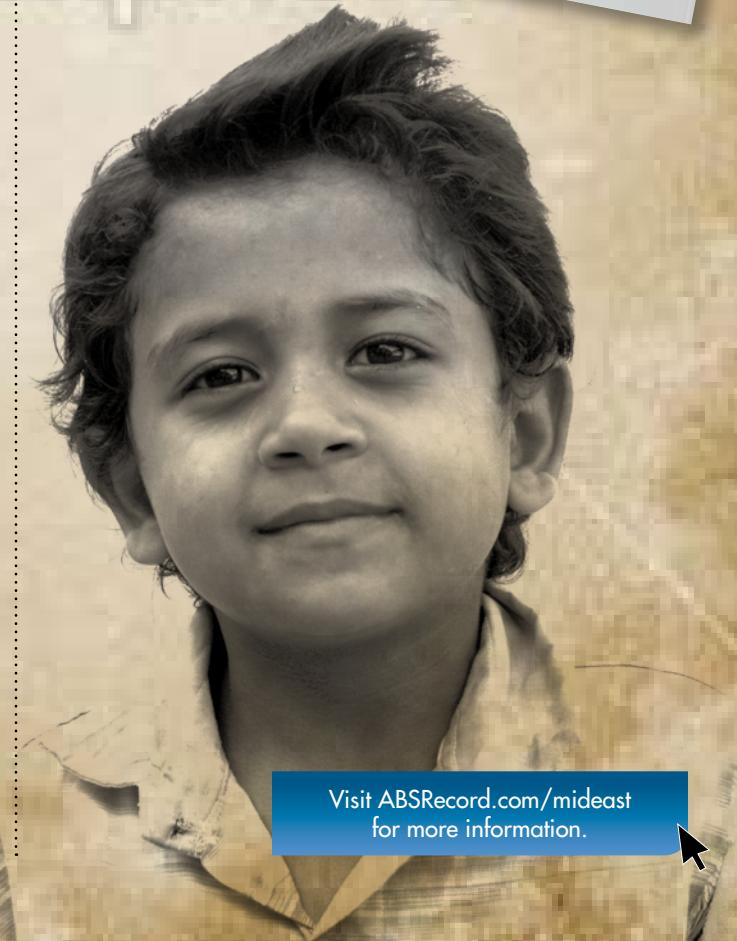
\*Names changed



1st established church in Kuwait



Bible Society of Kuwait Resource Center



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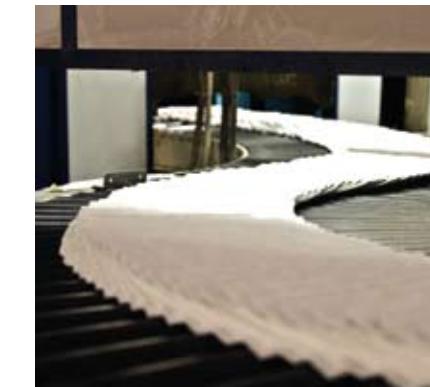
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As the Church grows in China, so does the hunger for God's Word. Your gift provides paper for printing 75 Bibles.

**\$75** #4001



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**\$60** #6005



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Will you send a gift of love to a forgotten child? The number of poor, orphaned and abandoned children throughout the world is growing at an alarming rate. Working with our fellowship of 145 Bible Societies around the world, you can send comfort where it is needed most by providing New Testaments for 100 precious children who await hope.

**\$100** #5003



### Help U.S. Inmates Find Peace

Men and women in prison live lonely lives, struggling with guilt and anger over their misdeeds. Many are desperately searching for answers to a life filled with pain and frustration. Your gift will help 30 lonely hearts find the true comfort found in God's Word.

**\$60** #6007



### Fill a Yearning Heart

Today, many still do not have the Bible in the language of their hearts. Thankfully, the important work of translation continues. The Lakota team is working to bring God's Word to Native Americans who are ready to embrace it. Your gift will translate 2 Scripture verses needed to help complete this project.

**\$50** #6006





### God's Word for Kenya's Schools

In many regions of Kenya, very few children own a Bible or can afford to buy one. Through our ministry partners, we are reaching out to 600 schools across Kenya with God's Word. Your gift of \$42 will help reach 12 students in Kenya with Audio Bibles and Scripture materials.

**\$42** #6003



### Comfort for Wounded Warriors

Your gift provides military chaplains with much-needed Scriptures for ministering to 3 wounded American heroes.

**\$12** #3002



### Hope for Street Children in Azerbaijan

Nearly half of the people of Azerbaijan live on less than \$1 a day, and children as young as 5 are sent into the streets to earn money. These children need to hear God's Word and experience his love. They need hope. Your gift will help provide Scriptures to 8 children in Azerbaijan.

**\$16** #1002



### Bibles for Kids in Ukrainian Schools

After decades of communist rule and religious suppression, the Bible is being welcomed back into Ukrainian public schools. But teachers lack Scripture resources tailored to the needs of children and teens in their classes. Your gift will help place God's Word into the hands and hearts of 12 young students in Ukraine.

**\$36** #1005



# Bible Q&A

### How many different English translations of the Bible are there?

I am afraid no one can give you an exact number for the English translations and paraphrases of the Bible printed since Tyndale's New Testament of 1526. In part this is due to the difficulty of determining what should be defined as a new translation as opposed to a correction or a revision of an existing translation. There is the additional question of how we should count translations that include not a complete Bible or Testament, but just a group of books or even a single book. And then, of course, there is the difficulty of sheer numbers. With all these caveats in mind, the number of printed English translations and paraphrases of the Bible, whether complete or not, is about 900.

The most comprehensive English bibliography of the subject is the one compiled by William J. Chamberlin, and published in 1991, as "Catalogue of English Bible Translations." The section covering the canonical books (including the Deuterocanon) has 806 pages. The book does include some ghost entries and a few repetitions, but gives you a fair idea of the number and variety of English translations.

### How do I dispose of my old, worn Bible?

There is no Christian ceremony or procedure for the disposal of old, worn Bibles. Although everyone agrees that if a book is worn and no longer usable, it should be discarded, but discarding a Bible is a difficult act for many people. It should be remembered that a Bible is a book. It may be helpful to think of the ways we discard books. It would be



a good thing to make it useful, and one way to do that is to recycle it. Recycling is an honorable act and that is fitting for a book such as a Bible.

First, check your Bible for family or historical information such as births, deaths and marriages, as local historical societies are often interested in the information. If you are not comfortable with these suggestions, consult your pastor, minister or priest and ask what he would do with the pulpit Bible.

### What is the meaning of terms such as folio, quarto and octavo used in describing old Bibles?

These terms are used to describe books produced by traditional methods of paper making and printing, before the beginning of the 20th century, and they refer to the way a sheet of paper is folded (also known as the format) and cut to become part of a printed book. A sheet folded once gives two leaves, that is four pages, each measuring half

the surface of the sheet. Likewise, a sheet folded twice results in four leaves and a sheet folded three times results in eight leaves. A folio (from Latin *folium*, which means 'leaf') is a book made of sheets folded one single time. A book consisting of sheets folded twice is called a quarto (from Latin *quartus* 'a fourth'), because its leaves measure a quarter of a sheet. Similarly an octavo is a book consisting of leaves that measure one eighth of a sheet. The actual measurements of a folio, quarto, etc. depend, of course, on the size of its original sheets.

Puzzled by a Scripture passage? Submit your Bible-related questions to Dr. Liana Lupas at [llupas@AmericanBible.org](mailto:llupas@AmericanBible.org) or via U.S. mail.



[ABSRecord.com/bibleqa](http://ABSRecord.com/bibleqa)

PHOTO BY ANDRE SCHNEIDER

# America's Earliest Bibles

## Exploring the Treasures of the American Bible Society Collection

BY BARBARA DELP

*"The sky and the earth won't last forever, but my words will."* Matthew 24.35 (CEV)

When America's earliest settlers arrived in the New World, they brought their Bibles with them – Bibles written in their heart languages – languages such as English, Dutch and German.

But what of the Native Americans who were already here and who had no written language? What Scriptures would they use?

It took the dedicated work of an English clergyman named John Eliot

more than 30 years to bring the Bible to his Native American neighbors. As a result of his work, the first Bible published in America – and in the New World – was not written in English, but in the language of the Algonquin

Indians in Massachusetts.\* Eliot, a Cambridge-educated clergyman, who was known as the "Apostle to the Indians," settled, in 1631, near what would become Boston. He immediately saw the need for a Bible in the Algonquin language. But without a written language, this was no simple task. With the help of an Algonquin companion, Eliot mastered the local dialect and created a written language for the tribe. Within 30 years of his arrival, the New Testament was published in Algonquin and two years later, in 1663, the full Bible was published. It was America's first Bible.

Today, that Bible is part of the American Bible Society's 45,000 volume holdings. More specifically, it is one of 3,000 treasures of the Rare Scriptures Collection, which resides at the Society's

headquarters, Bible House, in New York City. The Bible in the Algonquin language is housed along with other "biblical treasures," securely behind glass doors, where the temperature stays a steady 66 degrees and the humidity a comfortable 31 percent. And, keeping a watchful eye over the Collection

is Dr. Liana Lupas, a veteran ABS employee who was trained as a classicist in her native Romania.

Over the last two decades, Dr. Lupas has cared for the ABS Collection – the largest collection of Bibles in the



Dr. Liana Lupas in the stacks of the ABS Collection.

Western Hemisphere. As part of her responsibilities, she arranges special exhibits so the general public can have access to the works. A recent exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana

## Bibles in the New World



**1743**

### First European-language Bible published

Initially, America's earliest settlers did not need to print Bibles in their native languages since they could order them from their home countries. As a result, it was not until 1743 that the first European-language Bible, in German, was published in Germantown, Pa.

One of the 1,200 Bibles printed by German immigrant Christopher Saur is part of the ABS Collection. Back then, Saur's 1,267-page Bible, based on Martin Luther's text, drew a great deal of criticism – primarily from German religious factions.

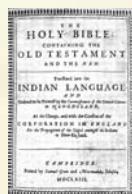


**1792**

### Earliest edition of the Bible printed in New York

The Hodge and Campbell Bible was the first American printing of John Brown's "Self-Interpreting Bible." The book was published by subscription, with George Washington as the first subscriber. The

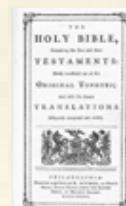
Bible's frontispiece features an allegorical representation of America as a woman wearing a Native American headdress, holding the Constitution in one hand while receiving the Bible.



**1663**

### \*First full Bible published in America

Eliot's Algonquin Bible, see top of page.



**1782**

### First English-language Bible published

Until America's independence from England, publishers adhered to the British Crown's almost exclusive right to publish the *King James Version* of the Bible. The Revolutionary War changed that and Americans – unable to import Scriptures from England – began printing their own. Robert Aitken printed the first English Bible in America in 1782. Pocket-sized, at just 6" by 4", it was called *The Bible of the Revolution*. The work, authorized by Congress, won the praise of George Washington.



**1791**

### America's first illustrated Bible

Isaiah Thomas, a printer who published more works than even Benjamin Franklin, was responsible for this Bible. The folio Bible, interspersed with 50 copperplate engravings, was considered the most beautiful book printed in America. The artwork illustrates such scenes as *Creation*, *Adam and Eve in a State of Innocence*, *Noah and His Family*, *Abraham*

*Offering up His Son*, *the Ascension of Jesus* and *Michael the Archangel Binding Satan and Casting Him into the Bottomless Pit*. Although the book is known for its engraved illustrations, not all surviving copies contain the artwork. Even the copy at Bible House lacks a complete set of illustrations.

PHOTOS BY ANDRE SCHNEIDER

was open to the public; and in New York, both private and public tours are often given at Bible House. Citing the public's interest in the ABS Collection, Dr. Lupas enthusiastically confides, "I never say 'no' to anyone."

Dr. Lupas' enthusiasm can be attributed to her passion for God's Word and her long-standing commitment to the ABS mission. "I love all the books," said Dr. Lupas of the Collection. "They are all important, whether they have monetary value or not." But she readily admits, some of the books in her care have significant historical value – such as the collection she calls "America's Earliest Bibles."

Pages within some of these rare books are treasures in and of themselves. Dr. Lupas points to an engraving of a world map that is part of a book printed

in 1571 – less than 100 years after Christopher Columbus discovered the New World. Knowing when the map was created helps explain some of the places highlighted on the Map. For example, although Australia was still unknown to Europeans at the time, the cartographer shows it using lightly-defined land lines. Seems the country, which was officially discovered by the Dutch in 1606, was "just a rumor in those days," said Dr. Lupas.

The map also highlights a region in Peru called Ophir. Dr. Lupas explains that the area is most likely named for its similarity to the biblical Ophir, an ancient land known for its gold, which is mentioned in 1 Kings 9.28 and 2 Chronicles 8.18.

Asked if there are further acquisitions on her mind, Dr. Lupas looks around



Detail of an engraving of a 1571 world map that shows the New World was barely undefined.

the room and smiles, clearly pleased with the vast array of books. "The perfect library is up there," she says pointing toward heaven. We have an extraordinary collection here. Of those we lack, there are a few I know I won't get. For example, I won't get a [full] Gutenberg, so I try to make peace with that."

#### **1804** Gospel of John for the Mohawk Indians

The British and Foreign Bible Society published this translation.



#### **1858** Recovered manuscript of first translated Scripture in America published

The first Scripture translated in America was the Nahuatl (Aztec) Lectionary, which was prepared by Spanish missionary Bernardino de Sahagún in 1532. It was translated just a few years after explorer Hernán Cortes arrived in Mexico. The manuscript of his work disappeared after Sahagún's death, but was later recovered and published in 1858.

#### **1818** 1-3 John published for the Delaware Indians

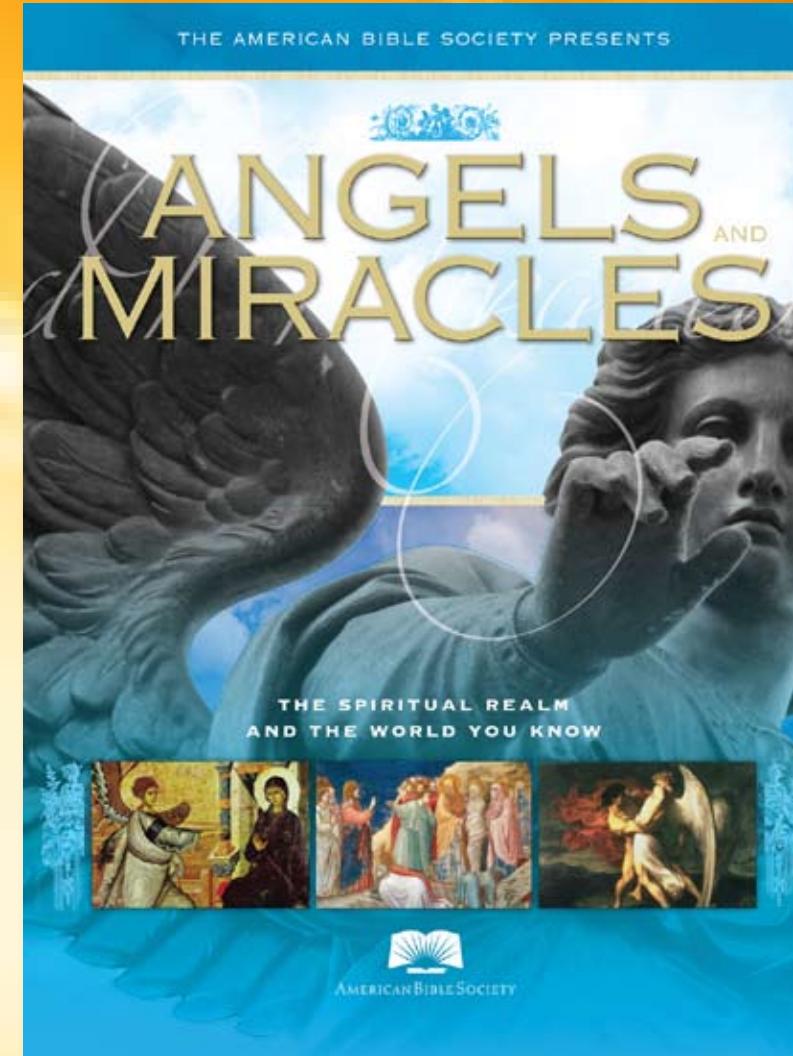
Two years after its 1816 founding, ABS published a translation of John's Epistles for the Delaware Indians.

The Rare Scriptures Collection at Bible House in New York City is available for viewing. Tours are by appointment only. Please call the American Bible Society at 212.408.1204.

Visit [ABSRecord.com/collection](http://ABSRecord.com/collection)  
to watch a video interview with  
Dr. Liana Lupus.

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# Hope for Widows in India

## Empowering Women and Girls Through God's Word

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PASCAL FOLLY

*“... and treat older women as you would your own mother.*

*Show the same respect to younger women that you would to your sister.” 1 Timothy 5.2 (CEV)*



Priya and Neelam are two young Hindus. Some 47 percent of India's population of 1 billion-plus is under the age of 20.

**M**y husband was an alcoholic,” says Jayabhai, a recently widowed Marathi woman in India. “My parents got me married when I turned 17. I could not complete my secondary school certificate, as they were in a hurry to marry me to my uncle’s son. They knew he was addicted to alcohol and yet got me married to him. Thus, my married life began with suffering that continued for five and a half years. Now as a widow with two daughters, ages 5 and 3, to care for, I find myself even in more despair and hopelessness.”

According to ancient Hindu custom, when a man dies, his wife has three choices. She can throw herself on his funeral pyre in the sacrificial act of *sati*; she can marry her husband’s younger brother (if his family is willing); or, she can spend her remaining days in isolation in an *ashram* designed for widows, where she shaves her head, wears mourning clothes and seeks to “atone” for her husband’s death.

There are approximately 359,802,209 women in India, more than the entire population of the United States. Many of them are widowed each year, and the conditions in which they exist leave much to be desired. While the society has evolved over the years, Indian culture still retains many beliefs and practices of the past, particularly in the rural areas.

Many of these ritualistic practices are alive and well today. Although they may take other forms and have shed their old names, they ultimately reflect the brutality inflicted on so many women and girls around the globe through sex trafficking, acid attacks, bride burnings and mass rape. In India, women are easy targets for violence — particularly the uneducated — too often at the hands of their own family members.

Although women, particularly widows, have to contend with huge injustices, they are prone to suffer even worse injustices if they are among the poor majority of Indian society. Many organizations around the world, including the World Bank, other larger non-government organizations and faith-based organizations, are aware of the plight of these women. And, they believe that focusing on empowering women and girls is the most effective way to fight poverty, religious extremism and inequalities in society.

One example of such empowerment is Mrs. Ruth, a Christian, who lives in Bangalore. Widowed with two boys,

**“I was challenged by God to surrender the bitterness that I had. Fortunately I was given a Bible in my language – Marathi. As I read through the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ, I was able to forgive my people.”**

she was summarily abandoned by her Hindu family. Life was difficult and she eventually fell seriously ill. It seemed she had no hope of survival until she received a visit from a group of Christians who asked if she would allow them to pray for her in the name of Jesus Christ. She consented and they introduced her to the Scriptures. Ultimately, she was healed and joined their house church. In addition to regaining her health, Mrs. Ruth now exudes hope and self-confidence. While selling multicolored Pashmina shawls in a tourist shop, Mrs. Ruth was eager

to share what God and his Word have done for her and her family. She credits the changes in her life to accepting Christ as the Lord of her life. She is thrilled to report that her oldest son is currently attending university, and her second son is finishing high school.

Less than 7 percent of the 1.2 billion Indian population is Christian, and with the increasing threat of persecution in different parts of the country, it is rare that one meets someone like Mrs. Ruth who is not afraid to express and share her faith openly in public. India is marked by a high degree of cultural pluralism. It has managed to preserve established traditions while absorbing new customs, traditions and ideas from other parts of the world. In turn, it has



Children from the Saint Philomena Catholic Church in Mysore, India, during one celebration of the first communion.

to the Lord and encouraged me to attend the seminar on ‘Hope for Widows.’ As I was going through the seminar, I was challenged by God to surrender the bitterness that I had against my parents, my husband and my sister-in-law to him. I struggled with this issue for more than a week. I also fortunately was given a Bible in my language – Marathi. As I read through the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ, I was able to forgive my people.

Luke 9.23 (GNT) says, ‘And he said to them all, ‘If you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, take up your cross everyday, and follow me.’ Now for me in my situation, this was taking up the cross and following the Lord.”

Visit [ABSRecord.com/india](http://ABSRecord.com/india) for more information.

# Please Pray

We invite you to focus your prayers on countries around the world where there is unrest, physical hardship and persecution.

*"Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God."*

Colossians 4:2 (GNT)



## China

The typhoon Morakot swept into Mainland China this past August. Deaths were reported and millions of people were forced to flee their homes for safety. Pray for God's mercy to keep people safe. Pray for the necessary resources to reach those who are grieving, hurting and suffering. Pray for the salvation of many during this period of recovery. Thank God for all the funds that have been provided to help meet Scripture needs in China over the years. Pray for this to continue as the demand for Scriptures is increasing.

## Egypt

Thank God for the wonderful response to Bible World, the Bible Society of Egypt's exhibition for children. Please pray for an efficient central warehouse for providing Scriptures to the growing Christian

population and future generations in Egypt and the region. Pray that many students will be strengthened in their faith as Christian religion teachers are empowered and enabled to help them engage with the Bible.

## Gulf States

Pray for migrant workers living and working in the Gulf, many of whom are illiterate and need audio/visual Scriptures as comfort, living in a foreign land. Praise God for the Faith Comes By Hearing® program; Audio Scriptures are very effective among migrant workers. Training workshops on storytelling are equipping churches to tell Bible stories to different language groups, and the Arabic Scripture program is fast developing. Pray for the new Bible center within the premises of the Catholic Church in Doha, Qatar.

## India

We are grateful for answered prayers and for the encouraging response to our distribution and fundraising efforts. We have published several new Scripture resources in different languages, and are continuing to develop Scriptures in different formats for special audiences. Give thanks for

this and for our work among widows, which is changing lives. Ask for God's blessing as we celebrate the bicentenary of our work this year. Please also pray for our work in Bhutan.

## Pakistan

In light of recent violence in Gojra, please pray, as Christians seem to be a target of attacks. Please pray for Pakistan, where ongoing terrorist activities have thrown the country into economic, social, political and religious turmoil. People are frightened; ask God to protect them, to bring an end to the attacks and to restore peace. Please pray that the newly-launched Urdu Study Bible will be well received and bring blessings to many people.

## Sudan

Pray for the new General Secretary, asking the Lord to give him wisdom. The Zande translation project is to relocate to Yambio; ask God to protect the translators and their families. In 2011, South Sudan will vote on whether to be an independent state or remain in a united Sudan. Pray that this event will pass peacefully and that the choice of the people will be honored. Pray as we minister to the people of Darfur who have suffered years of conflict.

PHOTO BY MALORIE TULL

# Quiet Time

*"You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water, And you refresh my life." Psalm 23:1-3 (CEV)*

## JANUARY 2010 EMBODYING HOPE AND CELEBRATING OUR UNITY IN CHRIST JESUS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> COLOSSIANS 1:1-23	<b>2</b> COLOSSIANS 1:24—2:5
<b>3</b> COLOSSIANS 2:6-23	<b>4</b> COLOSSIANS 3:1-17	<b>5</b> COLOSSIANS 4:2-18	<b>6</b> MATTHEW 2:1-12 EPIPHANY	<b>7</b> MATTHEW 2:13-23	<b>8</b> LUKE 3:1-22	<b>9</b> LUKE 4:16-30
<b>10</b> LUKE 4:31-44	<b>11</b> LUKE 5:1-16	<b>12</b> LUKE 5:17-39	<b>13</b> LUKE 7:1-17	<b>14</b> LUKE 7:18-35	<b>15</b> LUKE 7:36-50	<b>16</b> LUKE 9:1-17
<b>17</b> JOHN 17:1-26	<b>18</b> LUKE 9:18-36* * THE OCTAVE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY	<b>19</b> LUKE 9:37-62	<b>20</b> LUKE 10:1-24	<b>21</b> LUKE 8:19-39	<b>22</b> LUKE 8:40-56	<b>23</b> LUKE 18:15-30
<b>24</b> LUKE 19:1-10 ECUMENICAL SUNDAY	<b>25</b> ACTS 9:1-25	<b>26</b> ACTS 9:26-43	<b>27</b> ACTS 10:1-33	<b>28</b> ACTS 10:34-48	<b>29</b> ACTS 11:1-18	<b>30</b> ACTS 11:19-30
<b>31</b> ACTS 12:1-19						

## FEBRUARY 2010 EMBODYING HOPE AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> MATTHEW 22:15-46	<b>2</b> MARK 12:28-44	<b>3</b> LUKE 10:25-42	<b>4</b> LEVITICUS 19:1-18	<b>5</b> DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9	<b>6</b> GALATIANS 1:1-24
<b>7</b> GALATIANS 2:1-21	<b>8</b> GALATIANS 3:1-20	<b>9</b> GALATIANS 3:21—4:7	<b>10</b> GALATIANS 4:8-31	<b>11</b> GALATIANS 5:1-26	<b>12</b> GALATIANS 6:1-18	<b>13</b> 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-26
<b>14</b> 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27—13:13	<b>15</b> PSALM 51* * ORTHODOX LENT BEGINS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010.	<b>16</b> ISAIAH 58:1-14	<b>17</b> JOEL 2:1-17 ASH WEDNESDAY (WESTERN CHURCHES)	<b>18</b> HOSEA 11:1-11	<b>19</b> HOSEA 14:1-9	<b>20</b> 1 JOHN 1:1-10
<b>21</b> 1 JOHN 2:1-17 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>22</b> 1 JOHN 2:18-29	<b>23</b> 1 JOHN 3:1-10	<b>24</b> 1 JOHN 3:11-24	<b>25</b> 1 JOHN 4:1-21	<b>26</b> 1 JOHN 5:1-21	<b>27</b> 2 JOHN
<b>28</b> 3 JOHN SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT						

## MARCH 2010 EMBODYING HOPE AND TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> MATTHEW 6:1-18	<b>2</b> LUKE 11:1-13	<b>3</b> LUKE 18:1-14	<b>4</b> PSALM 32	<b>5</b> PSALM 33 WORD DAY OF PRAYER	<b>6</b> PSALM 34
<b>7</b> NUMBERS 14:1-25 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>8</b> 1 SAMUEL 2:1-11	<b>9</b> 2 SAMUEL 22:1-25	<b>10</b> 2 SAMUEL 22:26-51	<b>11</b> 1 KINGS 3:1-15	<b>12</b> 1 KINGS 8:1-21	<b>13</b> 1 KINGS 8:22-53
<b>14</b> 1 KINGS 8:54-66 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>15</b> EZRA 9:1-15	<b>16</b> NEHEMIAH 1:1-11	<b>17</b> NEHEMIAH 8:1-18	<b>18</b> NEHEMIAH 9:1-14	<b>19</b> NEHEMIAH 9:15-37	<b>20</b> ESTHER 4:1-17
<b>21</b> JOB 4:2-17 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>22</b> DANIEL 9:1-19	<b>23</b> JONAH 2:1-10	<b>24</b> HABAKKUK 1:1-17	<b>25</b> HABAKKUK 2:1-20	<b>26</b> HABAKKUK 3:1-19	<b>27</b> PSALM 86
<b>28</b> LUKE 19:28-48 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY	<b>29</b> LUKE 20:1-18	<b>30</b> LUKE 20:19-47	<b>31</b> LUKE 22:1-38			

To receive these Scripture readings together with additional devotions daily, sign up at [DailyBible.AmericanBible.org](http://DailyBible.AmericanBible.org)



# In Memoriam

*"Good people will be remembered as a blessing . . ." Proverbs 10.7a (GNT)*

MY MOTHER,  
**Ethel Atkins**

GIVEN BY PEGGY NICODEMUS

MY HUSBAND,  
**JACK BREMER**

GIVEN BY MRS. PATRICIA R. BREMER

MICHAEL BROWNLEE

GIVEN BY AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY STAFF

ANNA DION

GIVEN BY TERESA SCHOFIELD AND FAMILY

VIRGINIA M. KANARR-STRONG

GIVEN BY FREDERICK E. TAYLOR

MY SON,

**GARY KASparek**

GIVEN BY MRS. MERINDA A. PIERCE

OUR PARENTS,

**JOHN AND HELEN McClaIn**

GIVEN BY JUDY McClaIn AND BARBARA McClaIn

IVAN MORGAN

GIVEN BY APPLINE COOPER

GEORGE I. PAULSON

GIVEN BY NED G. AND LOUIS G. PAULSON

LISA PHAM

GIVEN BY AN NHAN DOAN

GIVEN BY BAO QUOC LE AND NHAN AI RUTH LE

FRANCIS AND ROBERTA RIER

GIVEN BY DONNA M. AND THURSTON MANCHESTER

MY HUSBAND,

**IVAN E. RUNYAN**

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