

A close-up photograph of a woman in a military uniform, likely an Army cavalry member, wearing a blue jacket with gold stripes on the cuffs and a plumed hat. She is looking off-camera with a serious expression and is saluting with her right hand. The background is slightly blurred.

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

Record

FALL 2017

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

200 Years of Service
to the U.S. Military

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Refugees in Uganda
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AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

Christmas
Gift Catalog
Inside!

Giving Thanks for Your Faithful Partnership

Dear Friends,
As Thanksgiving approaches, Rita and I have been giving thanks for the many blessings that God poured into our lives this past year. We are especially grateful for the precious people surrounding us on our journey:

- The courageous Christian believers we met in Egypt and India earlier this year.
- American Bible Society's faithful Board and staff members.
- Our beautiful new grandson, whom we welcomed into the world in July.

As we give thanks for the people we love, American Bible Society's prayer and financial partners are at the top of our list. As the apostle Paul writes, "I thank my God for you every time I think of you" (Philippians 1:3, GNT). Thank you for uniting your hearts with ours in this mission.

Your support is making a big impact, whether you partner with us through prayer, through monthly giving, or through your Will. As you will read in this issue of *Record*, your generosity is bringing the life-changing message of God's Word to those who need it most.

First, please join us in celebrating the 200th anniversary of our Armed Services Ministry, serving the men and women in our nation's military continuously since 1817. Because of faithful partners like you, nearly 60 million troops, veterans, and military family members have engaged with the Scriptures

in their hours of greatest need.
Thank you for ministering to the brave men and women who serve our country.

In this issue, you will also read about how God's Word is bringing new life to refugees in Uganda and to a tribe in rural Namibia. Although they live a world away, believers in these distant lands feel your deep love and support as they engage with the Scriptures.

As you read these stories from the front lines of our ministry, I pray that your heart, like mine, will be full of praise and thanksgiving to God. His Word is living and active. What a joy to serve him together!

Serving Together,

Roy L. Peterson
President & CEO



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Have you remembered American Bible Society in your Will?

Kindly let us know at **1-800-549-3328** (toll-free)

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Photo credit: Rhoda Gathoga.

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

Published since 1818, American Bible Society *Record* is the official periodical of American Bible Society and the second-oldest continuous publication in the United States. It is published three times a year and is sent to as many of our supporters as budget allows. Postage paid at Philadelphia, PA, and additional mailing offices. Other publications are encouraged to reprint the text of any *Record* article, but prior written permission must be obtained from American Bible Society *Record* to reproduce any images. Publications reprinting the text of a *Record* article must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the *Record* at 101 North Independence Mall East FL8, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155.



Record

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

FALL 2017, VOLUME 163, NUMBER 2

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A 3-Year-Old Iraqi Refugee's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

So begins the earnest prayer of Ali, a three-year-old Iraqi refugee living in Southern Jordan.



Your support helped a young Iraqi refugee named Ali. For his safety, we blurred this photo of Ali and changed his name.

May your holy name be honored;

Ali prays in a blend of Arabic and Assyrian, just as he has heard his mother and father pray night after night.

May your Kingdom come;

Ali's family—followers of Jesus—fled their home in Iraq when ISIS ravaged their village. "This was the hardest time of our lives," Ali's father grieves. Yet God's grace and peace was tangible. "When the war came, we saw how God spared us," he says. "He is with us even now."

May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Although the family is grateful for the relative safety of Jordan, Ali's mother still dreams of a more stable childhood for her boy. "I think of Ali's future," she says, "and I am filled with hope."

Give us today the food we need.

Through Bible Society in Jordan, American Bible Society's generous partners provided Ali's family with Bibles—including a children's Bible for Ali.

Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.

Ali's family has lived through the horrors of war and terrorism, but they're finding hope in Christ as they meditate on the Word of God. "In Iraq, we lost everything, our homes, everything," Ali's father says. "But in Christ, we have everything."

Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.

Through your faithful support, families like Ali's find restored hope in Jesus. "In our sadness," Ali says, "God is our happiness."

To help share God's Word with those who need it most, visit
ABSRecord.com/Bibles



East Lisu people in China read the Bible in their heart language for the very first time.

CHINA: Rural Believers Learn to Read the Bible

After waiting more than 100 years for a Bible translation in their heart language, the East Lisu people in rural China are learning to read the Bible through Scripture-based literacy classes. According to Jock Foo, a program manager for United Bible Societies China Partnership, Chinese Christians want to learn to read so they can study the Bible for themselves.

"Minority people ... speak their own minority language, but they don't know how to read it," explains Jock. "People

say, 'I must learn to read the Bible, because it is God's Word.'" Through support from American Bible Society's financial and prayer partners, these faithful believers in rural China are now engaging with Scripture in the same language that they use to sing lullabies to their children.

To help believers in rural China engage with God's Word, visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles

SYRIA: Healing Flows from God's Word

Despite the horrific conditions on the ground, God is at work in Syria. In February 2017, American Bible Society partnered with Bible Society in Syria to train 43 Syrian church leaders in Bible-based trauma healing—a ministry that uses Scripture and mental health best practices to care for people in the world's most devastated conflict zones. Each of these newly trained trauma healing facilitators represent the hands and feet of Jesus going forth to heal the wounds of the broken-hearted in one of the most volatile places on the planet.

In a country that has seen roughly half of its population displaced, forced out, or killed in a brutal civil war, the depth and breadth of trauma in Syria is hard to fathom. Please be praying for these courageous church leaders as they help victims of war in their communities engage with God's Word.

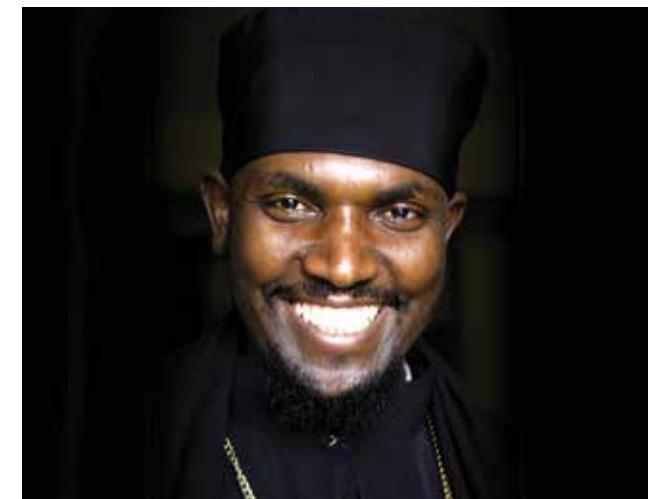


Syrian refugees are finding comfort and strength in God's Word.

ETHIOPIA: Church Leaders Bring Bible Translation to Life

Church leaders in northern Ethiopia are becoming stronger Bible teachers through support from American Bible Society's financial partners. A new Bible translation for the Tigrigna language launched in October 2015, and now Bible Society of Ethiopia is training priests in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to teach the good news of God's Word in the heart language of more than 4.5 million Tigrai people.

"The priests expressed their gratitude," reports one Bible Society representative in Ethiopia who helped facilitate the training. He says that equipping a priest with a Bible in their heart language nourishes lots of people with the Word of God. Praise God that the Scriptures are now being taught in an accessible and effective manner for so many Ethiopian believers.



Ethiopian priests are using a new Scripture translation to minister to their churches.

PERU: God's Word Heals Victims of Domestic Violence

American Bible Society's generous financial partners are helping bring God's message of hope and love to families dealing with domestic violence in Peru. Peruvian Bible Society has trained more than 30,000 people to help families prevent domestic violence and to care for one another through the pages of Scripture. This ministry meets a great need; on average, 50,000 domestic violence cases are reported in Peru every year.

"We are holding [Scripture-based] 'Stop the Violence' workshops because there are many women, like myself, who need help," says workshop leader María del Rosario Tejada. Through the love of a local church and the power of God's Word, women and their families in Peru are finding freedom from cycles of violence and abuse.



Hurting women in Peru are finding hope in God's Word, including Bonifacia, pictured here.

SWAZILAND: Political Leaders Celebrate the Bible's Social Impact

On May 27, 2017, Christians in Swaziland celebrated the 20th anniversary of the siSwati Bible translation, which serves the majority of Swaziland's 1.5 million citizens. During the celebration, which included music and poetry from local churches, a representative for the Prime Minister of Swaziland applauded the work of Bible Society in Swaziland and shared that the siSwati Bible has helped bring cultural transformation to the country.

To continue this spiritual transformation, American Bible Society's financial and prayer partners are supporting a new siSwati Study Bible, which is scheduled to launch in the beginning of 2018. Please pray that this new Scripture resource would help the Swazi people experience a deeper understanding of God's Word.



Church and government leaders in Swaziland celebrate the siSwati Bible translation.



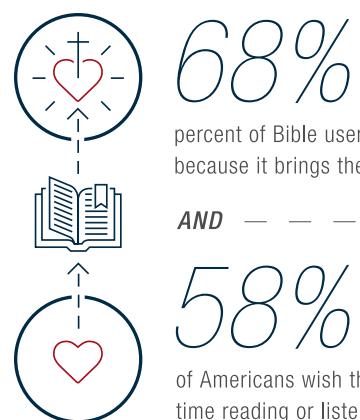
This rendering portrays the vibrant exterior of the forthcoming Faith and Liberty Discovery Center in Philadelphia.

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR FAITH AND LIBERTY DISCOVERY CENTER

Faith and civic leaders expressed excitement for American Bible Society's forthcoming Faith and Liberty Discovery Center during a press conference on January 11, 2017.

"Religious freedom is the cornerstone of this country," says Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney. "American Bible Society's project here will crystallize that religious freedom for all the people who visit."

Slated to open on Philadelphia's Independence Mall in 2019, the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center will bring to life the powerful story of the Bible's influence in America for more than 400,000 guests each year and for millions more through a digital learning experience. Please pray that guests would experience the history-changing message of the Bible through this strategic ministry endeavor.



To read the full report, visit [ABS.Bible/StateOfTheBible](#)

Study Reveals that Americans Want to Read the Bible More

According to a new study, most Americans say they would read the Bible more if they weren't so busy. That's just one of the trends revealed by the 2017 State of the Bible report—an annual study conducted by American Bible Society and Barna Group. This year's study also revealed that Americans who did engage regularly with Scripture felt closer to God as a result.

"The Bible remains a hands-down winner of hope for Americans," says American Bible Society President and CEO Roy Peterson. "Those who are opening up the Word of God are discovering it to be a guide to help make sense of life and a source of eternal hope."

Photo credits: Douglas M. Notting; ThinkStockPhotos.com/Rawpixel Ltd.



Charlotte pastor John Burton recently led his congregation through the Community Bible Experience.

Thousands in Charlotte Journey through the New Testament

In April 2017, a group of 15 churches in Charlotte, North Carolina completed the Community Bible Experience—an eight-week journey through the New Testament in partnership with American Bible Society. Using an edition of the New Testament containing no chapter or verse numbers created by Biblica, The International Bible Society, the Community Bible Experience in Charlotte helped more than 5,000 people experience the Bible as a vibrant story, not as an intimidating reference book. The result? The city of Charlotte is hungry for more of God's Word.

"We can't stop now," says one church leader in Charlotte. "We've started something great and now people look forward to talking about the Bible every week."

Bible App Helps Millions Engage with God's Word

YouVersion, a partner of American Bible Society, is delivering on its mission to help people fully engage with the Bible. More than 275 million people have used their portable devices to download the YouVersion Bible app, which is now available in more than 1,000 languages. American Bible Society's Senior Vice President of Ministry Geof Morin says he sees God's fingerprints all over these groundbreaking numbers.

"God is breaking down barriers to Scripture engagement around the globe," Morin says. "Thanks to smart, passionate partners like YouVersion, more people than ever have the life-changing message of God's Word in the palm of their hands."

To download the Bible app, visit [Bible.com](#)



The YouVersion Bible app is now available in more than 1,000 languages.



The Look Inside campaign helps Americans engage with the Bible while searching online.

Digital Campaign Invites Americans to Look Inside God's Word

American Bible Society recently launched an online advocacy campaign to help people appreciate and explore the Bible for themselves. The campaign invites curious Americans to "look inside" God's Word when searching for answers about the most hot-button issues facing our culture today.

Thanks to the generous support of American Bible Society's financial partners, 305,000 visitors have already engaged with Scripture-based content through LookInside.Bible—the online hub for this Scripture engagement campaign. Of these, more than 19,000 chose to dig into deeper exploration of God's Word. Please join us in celebrating the successful launch of the Look Inside campaign.

To explore the campaign, visit [LookInside.Bible](#)

GOD'S WORD LIVING AND ACTIVE

An oral Bible translation rooted in music and storytelling is bringing God's Word to life for a nomadic people group in Namibia.

As a child of Namibia's nomadic Ovaherero people group, Watjanga Muharukula grew up surrounded by stories, although not the kind you can read in a book.

Watjanga's people are oral and visual communicators. Every day, they gather around a fire and tell stories through song, dance, drama, and poetry. One of these stories from Watjanga's childhood changed his life forever.

"My mother showed me pictures of what Christianity was," Watjanga says. "She would draw for me the pictures of things like the cross, baptism, and heaven." When a visiting missionary explained the gospel message for Watjanga in greater detail, all his mother's stories hit home.

"I chose to believe in Jesus," he says. This decision placed Watjanga firmly in the minority among the Ovaherero.

"Our people do not believe you get to God through Jesus," Watjanga explains. "[They] worship God through fire ... and offer prayers to God through our ancestors."

Despite these longstanding beliefs, Watjanga hasn't lost hope for his people. In fact, he's doing something to help them.



From the time they are young, the Ovaherero people share stories through drama, song, and dance. A new oral Bible is bringing the story of God's love to life in their heart language.

Because as Watjanga knows firsthand, experiencing Christ's love through the story of the Bible can change your life.

Watjanga and a team from Bible Society of Namibia are translating a new oral Bible for the Ovaherero people with support from American Bible Society's financial and prayer partners. Oral Bibles like this one engage non-readers with God's Word through recorded stories and songs rather than through written text. The result is an easy-to-share Bible as unique as the Ovaherero themselves.

Although the Ovaherero translators know how to read and write, they do not rely on a written alphabet to convey the meaning of God's Word to their people. Instead, Watjanga and his fellow translators use their voices to tell dramatized Bible stories and to sing Scripture-based songs. They record these stories and songs using Render—a translation software developed by Faith Comes by Hearing®, Pioneer Bible Translators, and Seed Company.

The Render software is made up of icons rather than text, so it's easy for non-readers to use. It allows oral communicators to translate God's Word as if they were sharing a story

Photo credit (left): Ilan Molcho, Creative Commons CC BY 2.0.
Photo credit (right): Bible Society of Namibia.

with their next-door neighbor.

"It's a completely different way of packaging the message so that the receiver is able to visualize the story," says American Bible Society's Senior Manager for Frontline Scripture Engagement, Rhoda Gathoga. "It's so alive!"

The Ovaherero Oral Bible captures nuances that simply aren't possible in written text. For example, one oral translator made his voice rise and fall to convey the rising and falling of the waves in the story of Noah's ark.

Although translators use creativity in their storytelling, they don't take creative license with the story itself. The Render software makes it easy for Bible scholars and community leaders to check the accuracy of the translation against the biblical text, ensuring that the new oral Bible doesn't evolve into a community-wide game of "whisper down the lane."

The result of this unique approach to translation is a Bible that meets the Ovaherero where they are—whether migrating with their cattle to fertile pastures or gathering for fellowship around the fire. And by engaging with God's



As an oral people group, the Ovaherero carry God's Word with them in a digital format, learning Scripture-based songs that they can share with their community. In this photo, a group of Ovaherero people are listening to Scripture in their heart language.

Word in the language of their hearts, the Ovaherero are able to meet the God who loves them.

"They used to believe that our God was only for people who could read," Gathoga says. "But now they can identify with this God who speaks their language."

The phrases, rhythms, and melodies of the oral Bible also make it easy for the Ovaherero people to memorize and share God's Word with their neighbors.

"Think of how many Sunday School songs you learned when you were five or six that you still remember," says Gathoga. "Imagine if that happened with all of Scripture!"

Watjanga and the translation team have already translated the beginning of Genesis and roughly half of Mark and Luke, helping the Ovaherero people engage with key portions of the biblical story. They are excited to see God's Word opening hearts in the Ovaherero community.

"I am introducing our people to the God of the Bible," Watjanga says. "There is new openness from them to learn more."

By meeting the unique cultural needs of Watjanga's people, American Bible Society's financial and prayer partners are bringing God's Word to life for a community that is hungry for Christ's love.

"It's like your own brother telling you about Christ," Gathoga says. "You can't beat that!"

Jack Newman is a writer at American Bible Society and managing editor of Record magazine.

You can help translate God's Word for waiting language groups around the world! Visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles

RRRRRUNNING

THE RACE



To watch a video of
Noah's amazing story, visit
ABS.Bible/RunForBibles

One 15-year-old ran 100 miles in a month to provide Bibles to rural Chinese believers.

The walls of Noah Barnhart's bedroom are covered in medals from high school cross country and track meets. But in July 2016, Noah decided to run for a much bigger prize—to share God's Word with people in China.

It all began when Noah heard a missionary explain the urgent need for Bibles in rural China. This sparked a desire in him to do something great for God. Rather than making excuses about not having enough money or being "just a kid," Noah decided to use his athletic ability to bless Chinese believers through the gift of God's Word.

So Noah made a challenge for himself: run 100 miles in one month—nearly double the distance that he normally ran. And he made a challenge for his friends and family: pledge money to provide Bibles for China if he met his 100-mile goal.

Every day in July, Noah faithfully ran three miles through the woods and along the coastline of his hometown in Connecticut. And by the end of the month, Noah had raised \$2,411 to provide Bibles in China, blowing away his original fundraising goal of \$1,000.

Rather than chalking up this success to his own abilities, Noah gives all the glory to God. For him, it's straightforward: "God wanted more money to be raised."

And although Noah was running to bless others, he found himself blessed in the process.

"The thing that I took away from running during that month was that if you draw closer to God, he'll draw closer to you," Noah says.

Noah mailed the money to American Bible Society along with a personal letter that said, "I would like to thank you for providing a path that allowed me to send the greatest possible number of Bibles to China."

In October 2016, just three months after Noah completed his 100-mile challenge, a team from American Bible Society delivered Noah's Bibles to China's East Lisu people, who



American Bible Society President & CEO Roy Peterson hand-delivered Noah's Bibles to East Lisu believers in China—sharing the message that God loves them.

had been waiting 100 years to receive God's Word in their heart language.

By covering the cost of paper, which is merely \$1 per Bible, Noah helped provide a Bible to 2,411 families in rural China. And with an average of three to four people per family, Noah's gift is impacting thousands of people.

"If I could say something to the people in China that got my Bibles, it would be that I hope they use the Bibles to their and other peoples' benefit and bring others to Christ through the Bibles," Noah says.

Noah views his gift as a small part of God's big plan, and he encourages believers across the world to use their time and resources to build God's kingdom.

"For people who feel like they don't have anything to give to God, I'd say that if you're creative and use what you have for him, he'll give you more," Noah says.

Laura Chan is a writer at American Bible Society.

You can share God's Word with believers in rural China, just like Noah! Visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles

QUIET TIME

"Yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever."

Isaiah 40:8 (GNT)

SEPTEMBER

God's Faithful Word of Wisdom

- 1 Matthew 5:1–20
- 2 Matthew 5:21–48
- 3 Matthew 6:19–34
- 4 Matthew 7:1–14
- 5 Matthew 7:15–29
- 6 Matthew 13:1–17
- 7 Matthew 13:18–33
- 8 Matthew 13:34–58
- 9 Matthew 22:1–14
- 10 Matthew 22:15–33
- 11 Matthew 23:1–12
- 12 Matthew 23:13–28
- 13 1 Corinthians 1:1–17
- 14 1 Corinthians 1:18–31
- 15 1 Corinthians 2:1–16
- 16 1 Corinthians 3:1–23
- 17 1 Corinthians 4:1–21
- 18 Job 28:1–28
- 19 Psalm 49
- 20 Proverbs 8:1–36
- 21 Proverbs 9:1–18
- 22 Proverbs 10:1–32
- 23 Proverbs 11:1–31
- 24 Proverbs 12:1–28
- 25 Proverbs 13:1–25
- 26 James 1:1–27
- 27 James 2:1–26
- 28 James 3:1–18
- 29 James 4:1–17
- 30 James 5:1–20

OCTOBER

God's Faithful Word of Justice and Peace

- 1 World Communion Sunday
- 2 1 Corinthians 11:17–34
- 3 Psalm 7
- 4 Psalm 9
- 5 Psalm 10
- 6 Psalm 12
- 7 Psalm 15
- 8 Psalm 17
- 9 Isaiah 26
- 10 Psalm 50
- 11 Psalm 52
- 12 Psalm 72
- 13 Psalm 73
- 14 Psalm 75
- 15 Psalm 82
- 16 Psalm 85
- 17 Leviticus 25:1–22
- 18 Leviticus 25:23–38
- 19 Leviticus 25:39–55
- 20 Numbers 27:1–11
- 21 Numbers 36:1–13
- 22 Deuteronomy 1:1–18
- 23 Deuteronomy 8:1–20
- 24 Deuteronomy 10:1–22
- 25 Deuteronomy 11:1–17
- 26 Deuteronomy 11:18–32
- 27 Isaiah 11:1–16
- 28 Isaiah 25:1–9
- 29 Isaiah 32:1–20
- 30 Isaiah 33:10–24
- 31 Ezekiel 34:1–31
- 32 Psalm 46

NOVEMBER

God's Faithful Word of Praise and Thanksgiving

- 1 Psalm 48
- 2 1 Corinthians 11:17–34
- 3 Psalm 7
- 4 Psalm 9
- 5 Psalm 10
- 6 Psalm 12
- 7 Psalm 15
- 8 Psalm 17
- 9 Isaiah 26
- 10 Psalm 50
- 11 Psalm 52
- 12 Psalm 72
- 13 Psalm 73
- 14 Psalm 75
- 15 Psalm 82
- 16 Psalm 85
- 17 Leviticus 25:1–22
- 18 Leviticus 25:23–38
- 19 Leviticus 25:39–55
- 20 Numbers 27:1–11
- 21 Numbers 36:1–13
- 22 Deuteronomy 1:1–18
- 23 Deuteronomy 8:1–20
- 24 Deuteronomy 10:1–22
- 25 Deuteronomy 11:1–17
- 26 Deuteronomy 11:18–32
- 27 Isaiah 11:1–16
- 28 Isaiah 25:1–9
- 29 Isaiah 32:1–20
- 30 Isaiah 33:10–24
- 31 Psalm 46

DECEMBER

God's Faithful Word of Joy

- 1 Mark 1:1–8
- 2 Mark 1:9–20
- 3 Psalm 66
- 4 Psalm 67
- 5 1 Chronicles 13:1–14
- 6 1 Chronicles 14:1–17
- 7 1 Chronicles 15:1–24
- 8 1 Chronicles 15:25–16:7
- 9 1 Chronicles 16:8–43
- 10 1 Chronicles 17:1–27
- 11 Ezra 7:1–10
- 12 Ezra 7:11–28
- 13 Nehemiah 8:1–18
- 14 Nehemiah 12:27–47
- 15 Esther 9:20–32
- 16 Job 42:1–17
- 17 Psalm 21
- 18 Psalm 24
- 19 Psalm 81
- 20 Psalm 84
- 21 Psalm 87
- 22 Psalm 92
- 23 Psalm 100
- 24 Psalm 104
- 25 Psalm 105
- 26 Psalm 106
- 27 Psalm 113
- 28 Psalm 115
- 29 Psalm 116
- 30 Psalm 118

Photo credits: ThinkStockPhotos.com/voivik_mar; Lightstock.com/PixieCreative.

PRAY AROUND THE WORLD



Bible Societies around the world are sharing God's message of hope and love with those who need it most. Here are prayer requests from a select group of these Bible Societies.

① Guatemala

Please pray for Bible Society of Guatemala as it updates the Bible for the Quiché language group. The current Quiché Bible contains an outdated alphabet, which prevents young Quiché speakers from engaging with God's Word. Pray that this new translation project would make the Bible available and alive for the 1.5 million Quiché speakers in Guatemala.

② Benin

Thank God for the publication of a new Bible in the Goun language and a New Testament in the Aja language. Pray for the ongoing growth of Bible Society of Benin's service to local churches.

③ Tanzania

Nearly 1,000 refugees pour into Tanzania every day, fleeing bloodshed in Congo and Burundi. Pray for local church leaders using Bible-based trauma healing to minister in Nyarugusu, the third largest refugee camp in the world. Ask God to bring deep and lasting healing for broken refugee families through this ministry.

④ China

Please pray for the faithful believers in rural China who are still waiting for access to God's Word in their heart language. Pray that the government would approve Bible translation and printing requests, which help bring the Scriptures to Christians in rural China.

⑤ Philippines

Pray for the Philippine Bible Society as it aims to distribute 500,000 copies of the Bible to families in the country. Please also ask God to bless a new Scripture engagement program for women launching this year.

⑥ Australia

Give thanks to God for Bible Society of Australia, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2017. Please also pray for its work in translating Scripture into several indigenous languages as well as into Australian sign language.

You can join our online prayer community at [ABS.Bible/RecordPrayer](#)



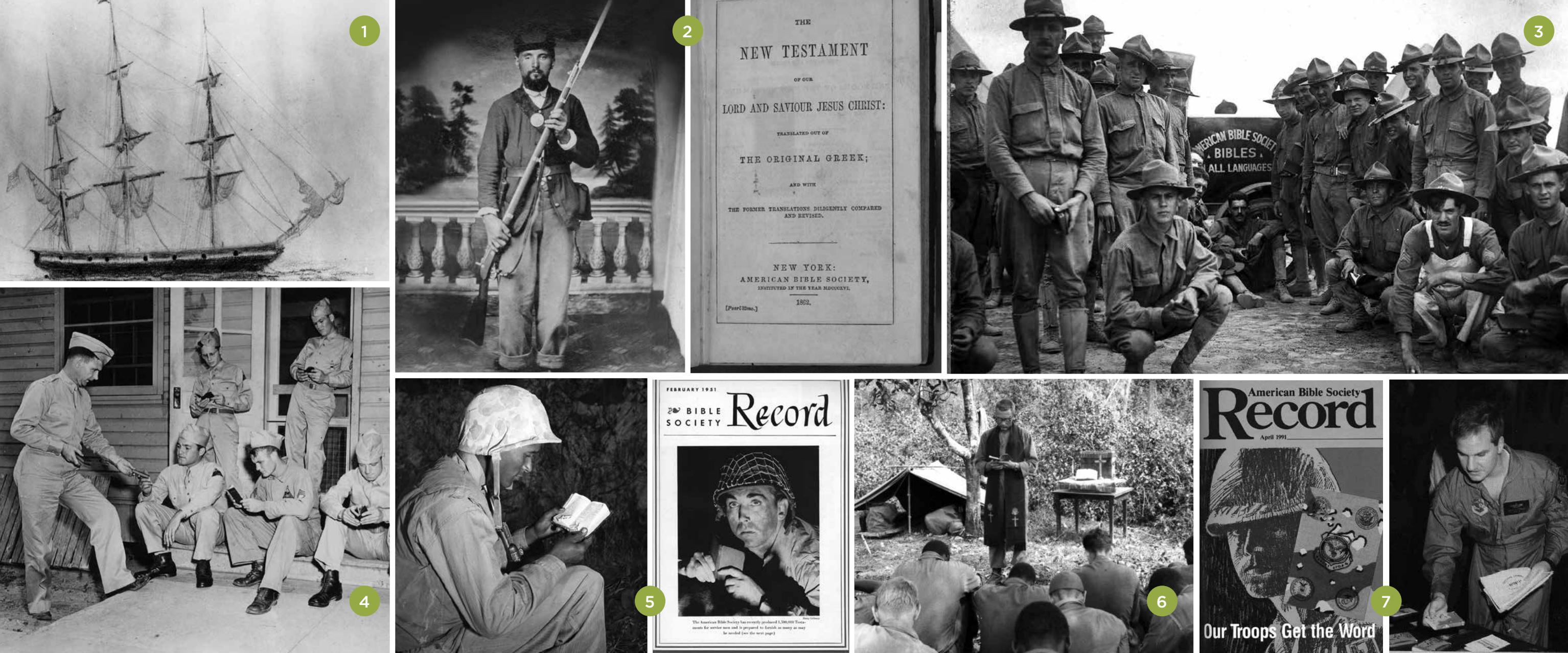
HIS TRUTH IS MARCHING ON

Photo Credit: U.S. Army Photo.

Strengthening the
U.S. Military with
God's Word for 200
years and counting

For 200 years, American Bible Society's financial partners have helped military service members and their families find comfort in the Scriptures during their hours of great need. From the heartbreak of the Civil War to recent conflicts in the Middle East, faithful partners like you have been there with God's Word—strengthening the men and women who courageously serve our nation.

These snapshots represent God's great faithfulness during some of the most pivotal moments in U.S. history. And God is still at work, changing the lives of military members and their families through the power of his Word.



1

A Ministry Begins

1817

One year after its founding, American Bible Society presented 65 Bibles to the crew of the U.S.S. *John Adams*. This gift inaugurated an Armed Services Ministry that has helped millions of U.S. military members and their families engage with God's Word.

2

Civil War

1861–1865

While American Bible Society provided Scriptures for the military before 1861, its ministry efforts remained modest until the tragic years of the Civil War. As soon as the war erupted, American Bible Society's board unanimously decided to distribute Scriptures to both sides of the conflict, ultimately providing more than 3 million Bibles and New Testaments between 1861 and 1865.

The New Testament pictured above belonged to a soldier named Thomas Finley Ramsay, who died on April 8, 1864 at the age of 20.

3

World War I

1914–1918

More than 6 million American soldiers received Bibles during World War I, helping brave young troops engage with the comfort and peace of God's Word during one of the bloodiest conflicts in world history.

4

World War II

1939–1945

American Bible Society relies on faithful chaplains to share God's Word with U.S. military members. In this photo, a chaplain distributes Bibles to soldiers during World War II.

5

Korean War

1950–1953

Left: A soldier reads his Bible during the Korean War.
Right: A *Record* magazine cover from February 1951. Between 1950 and 1953, American Bible Society provided 3.8 million Scripture resources to U.S. military members.

6

Vietnam War

1954–1973

A group of soldiers gather for worship during the Vietnam War.

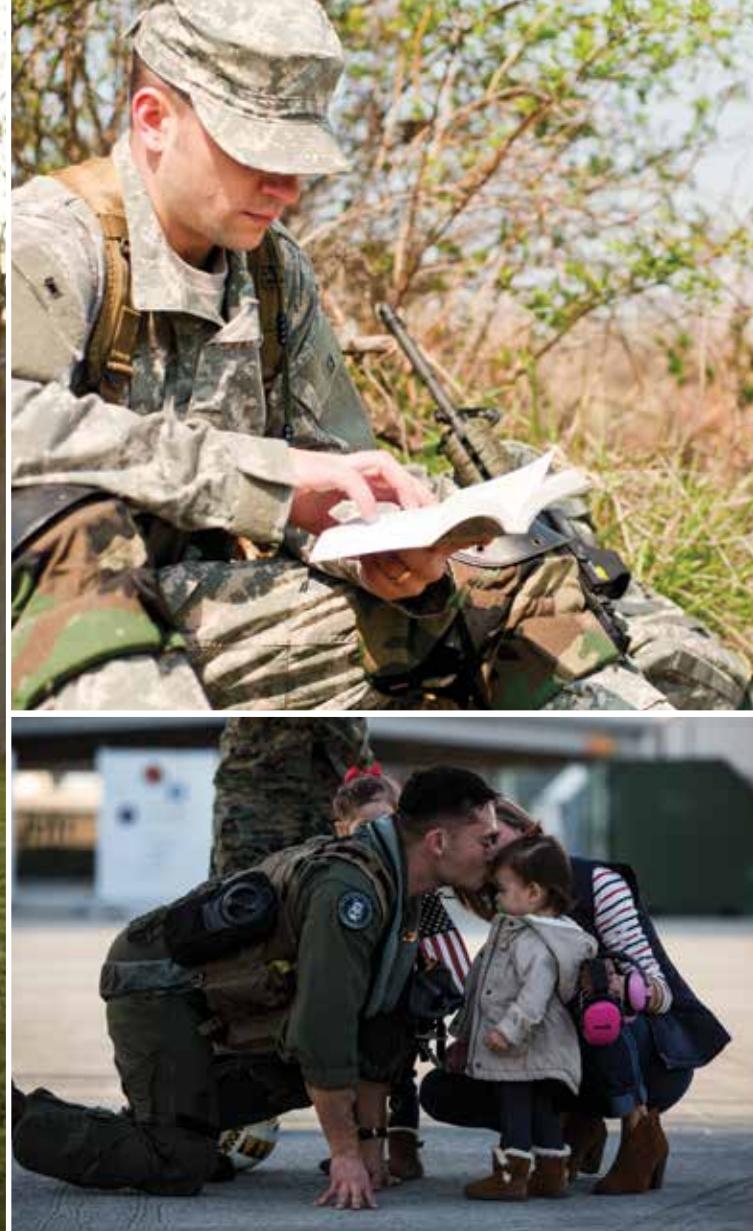
7

Persian Gulf War

1990–1991

Left: This April 1991 issue of *Record* magazine appeared just after the end of the Persian Gulf War.

Right: Members of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard receive desert-camouflage New Testaments during the Persian Gulf War.



Today

From 1817 through the War on Terror, American Bible Society's financial and prayer partners have delivered nearly 60 million free Bible resources to America's armed forces—that's an average of 300,000 service members every year engaging with the life-changing message of God's Word.

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Photo credits: Joshua Wamm/Andrew Hood; U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Zachary M. Ford.



IN MEMORIAM

"The LORD is my protector; he is my strong fortress. My God is my protection, and with him I am safe. He protects me like a shield; he defends me and keeps me safe."

Psalm 18:2 (GNT)

My husband,

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Luther Lee Perry Jr.

Given by Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

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Fay Pilkenton

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Our grandmother,

Dr. Kathryn Schoen

Given by Nathan and Sarah Friend

My friend,

Suzanne Sellers

Given by Judith A. Dyk

My friend,

Suzanne Sellers

Given by Teresa Harder

Joseph Sobaje

Given by David and Mary Rogne

Frederick Kerkstra

Given by the Family of Frederick Kerkstra

My husband,

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My mother,

Jeanne Owens

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My stepfather,

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RISING FROM THE ASHES

Because of you, suffering refugees in Uganda are finding new life through the power of God's Word.



A widow named Joyce Zaninka (center) experienced the hopeful message of God's Word after fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Photo credits: Rebecca Silva.

When Joyce Zaninka arrived at Uganda's Nakivale refugee camp, she kept her eyes fixed on the dusty orange ground. She did not greet anyone. She did not ask how the other refugees were feeling or why they had fled to Uganda for safety.

She had already experienced enough sorrow for a lifetime.

After losing her husband and seven of her ten children to rebel violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Joyce fled over the bloodstained border into Uganda. In the refugee camp, Joyce simply existed. She barely slept. She didn't trust anyone.

That's when Joyce heard about a Bible-based healing group for suffering widows in Nakivale. *That's me*, Joyce thought. So she went. In the group, Joyce heard a message that cut through her suffering. She heard that God loves the brokenhearted. She learned that God walks beside the widow, enters into her grief, and offers eternal joy. These words changed Joyce's life forever.

Through the support of American Bible Society's prayer and financial partners, this

Scripture-based trauma healing ministry organized by Bible Society of Uganda is moving Joyce and her fellow refugees from hurt to hope.

By combining the restorative power of Scripture with mental health best practices, Bible-based trauma healing helps people in brutal conflict zones encounter a Savior who understands their suffering and grief. Laying their sorrows at his feet, they find new life. Now refugees like Joyce are paying it forward—sharing the hope of Christ with their suffering neighbors in Nakivale.

And as the eighth largest refugee camp in the world, Nakivale *needs* hope.

"The need for trauma healing in Uganda is so great," says Bible Society of Uganda's Trauma Healing Director Esther Achieng. "There are wars everywhere in our neighboring countries.... People have lost so much."

To care for the millions of refugees fleeing atrocities in their homeland, Bible Society of Uganda is equipping local church leaders to engage their communities with the healing message of God's Word.

"The first place [suffering people] run



Today Joyce serves as the president of the same women's trauma healing ministry that first showed her God's love for the brokenhearted.

to is the church," says Achieng. "So we need to train the church in their communities so people ... can identify with their pain." The most effective way church leaders reach refugees in their pain and isolation is through Bible-based trauma healing groups, such as the one Joyce attended.

Healing groups provide a safe space for traumatized refugees to cry out to God with raw, honest questions, just like their suffering Savior—*My God, why have you forsaken me?* Supported by a loving church, they express their pain through tears, stories, and prayers of lament.

"Once people have trauma healing, they have a heart to help others."

Esther Achieng, Bible Society of Uganda

During a key exercise, participants write their darkest memories on strips of paper. They bring the papers to the foot of a large cross and burn them, reminding them that Jesus's death and resurrection brings unbreakable hope and peace.

Through her own encounter with Christ's love, Joyce found rest from her struggles.

"I feel comfortable somehow now," Joyce says. "I can just pray and give everything to God."

Now refugees who have been released from the grip of trauma are serving their

suffering neighbors in Nakivale—and it's making a difference.

"There is unity [in Nakivale] now," Achieng says. Since the launch of Bible-based trauma healing in Nakivale, more refugees are taking care of one another.

"Once people have trauma healing, they have a heart to help others," Achieng explains.

This is certainly true for Joyce. Although she used to distrust others, she's now sharing the hope of God's Word with her fellow refugees.

"After obtaining the [trauma healing] lessons ... I'm so bold," Joyce says. "I can laugh with people."

Joyce recently became the president of the same trauma healing group that showed her God's love for the brokenhearted. She even invited a woman who is HIV-positive to live with her—showing God's love to someone who would normally be shunned and rejected in Nakivale.

Through word and deed, Joyce and her fellow trauma healing leaders are embodying a simple but powerful truth: God loves the refugees of Nakivale. And Joyce says they're not done spreading the Bible's message of a God who is near the brokenhearted.

"We're going to tell others," Joyce says.

Laura Chan is a writer at American Bible Society.

To bring the healing power of God's Word to those who need it most, visit
ABSRecord.com/Bibles

Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

During her life, Suzanne Sellers earned a reputation as a passionate but gentle fighter.

"She loved finding people's passions and stoking those flames," says Suzanne's son Daniel. "She inspired and she influenced."

Suzanne's inspiring courage shone brightest in the face of adversity—whether she was battling cancer, leading her family through a difficult trial, or defending impoverished women in Russia, Ukraine, and Rwanda.

But Daniel is equally impressed by the way his mother handled success. Daniel recalls that even when his mom enjoyed a lucrative job in the for-profit sector, she faithfully heeded God's call to enter full-time Christian ministry.

"God started speaking to her," Daniel says. "And she listened.... She decided to drop it all to go serve God."

Suzanne served the Lord through several Christian ministries, including American Bible Society, where she served as a fundraising officer. Suzanne's friends and family cherished her contagious zeal to help people encounter the love of Christ through God's Word.

"She was always positive and active in her service," says Suzanne's American Bible Society colleague Sam Lufi. "She set a great example for me."

One of Suzanne's exemplary acts of faith came at the end of her life when she made a legacy gift to American Bible Society through her life insurance plan.

"She put her money where her mouth was," Daniel says. "When you have a life insurance policy that's decent, how could you not give a portion of that?"

Whether she was following God's call into the mission field or strengthening God's Kingdom through her giving, Suzanne's legacy serves as a blazing example of what it means to fight the good fight of faith.



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"What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next; they will proclaim your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4 (GNT)



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