

990 Narrative for FY 05-06

The American Bible Society, founded in 1816, remains true to its mission “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 Bible Society advocates that people engage with the Bible so that they might experience its life-changing message—to learn to follow Jesus Christ and to live life in all its fullness. This narrative describes the pursuit of that advocacy during the past year, putting a human face on the statistical and financial data behind it.

More specifically, the Bible Society seeks to win the hearts and minds of this present generation—to get everyone to turn to the hope offered in God’s Word. The Bible Society does this by advocating for the Bible throughout society, by providing Scripture solutions that are relevant, especially to youth and people in crisis, and by partnering with denominations, local churches and community-based organizations.

Highlights

Visibility for the American Bible Society is key for garnering support for its mission and ministry. Over the past year a concerted effort has been made to increase the public profile of the Bible Society.

A new television series, *American Bible Society Presents* is hosted by Bible Society president, Rev. Dr. Paul G. Irwin, airs on more than 400 outlets, highlighting the ministry and outreach of the Bible Society and its many partners. The series has won two prestigious national video awards.

The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham was honored with the Bible Society’s first *Heroes of the Faith Lifetime Achievement Award*. At a presentation made at his home, Dr. Graham’s received a unique Steuben crystal sculpture portraying hands holding a Bible from Dr. Paul Irwin. The award recognized Dr. Graham for the many decades he has steadfastly preached the Word of God to people around the world. Etched into the crystal is the Scripture passage used at the founding of the American Bible Society in 1816: “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2.14 (KJV)

The Bible Society reached an agreement with Habitat for Humanity to provide a Bible, presented to each new home owner, at the dedication of homes built in the United States.

Over one and a half million Scriptures, consisting of full Bibles, portions and New Testaments, were provided to people affected by Hurricane Katrina. These Scriptures buttressed the work of the church community in ministering to the emotional and spiritual needs of the victims and caregivers. The Bible Society developed ongoing partnerships with nationally-known Christian disaster providers such as Convoy of Hope and the Salvation Army.

Dr. Irwin distributed Scriptures at the Azuza Street Centennial event in Los Angeles marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the modern Pentecostal movement.

During the National Day of Prayer, the Bible Society's headquarters facilities (Bible House) were used as a venue for ecumenical gatherings. Fire fighters attending activities surrounding the event were prayed for.

To understand how to better meet the needs of youth, the Bible Society carried out research among teens. One survey sought to discover the spiritual impact among teenagers of catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina. Almost 76 percent (75.9 percent) of teenagers said that such catastrophic events did not affect their faith in God. Of those teens who did believe that recent catastrophic events did affect their faith, more than 83 percent (83.5 percent) said "they've made their faith in God stronger."

A second survey discovered that the majority of teenagers – 82.4% -- think the words "under God" belong in the Pledge of Allegiance. Furthermore, the majority (63%) of teens polled say they think about the words "under God" while they are reciting the pledge. More than 70% (71.8) think that students should be allowed to pray in school

Domestic Ministries

(\$43,739,576)

Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship

In the past fiscal year six teams have continued to translate Scripture into native languages in North America. In other translation activities, the New Testament was published in Gullah, *De Nyew Testament*, concluding a 27-year effort, and the Gospel of Mark was published in Choctaw. The Pentateuch, Psalms and Proverbs was published in Central Alaskan Yupik. The manuscript for a Lakota Sioux *Life in All Its Fullness* portion was finalized and two mother tongue workshops were held for Bible translators.

Bible Read-a-Thon

To commemorate the 190th anniversary of the founding of the American Bible Society, a Bible Read-a-Thon was held outside of Bible House in Manhattan. Hundreds of churches and volunteers participated as readers in the May, 2006, event, drawing the attention of those passing by. Segments of this cover-to-cover public proclamation of the Holy Bible were broadcast on two New York area Christian radio stations, WMCA/WWDJ and WAWZ (Star 99.1).

Bible Products and Bible Education

Critical Perspectives (monthly installments on timely and relevant issues) and Christianity and American Popular Culture (a six-part series that explores the relationship between Christian faith and American popular culture), were launched on the Bible Resource Center website.

Online resources, including articles and interviews with scholars, were developed in response to *The DaVinci Code* book and film.

A Viewer's Discussion Guide and an activity for children were developed to coincide with the release of the film *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Twenty-seven Bible Study Guides were developed for online use and 36 pages of Bible helps in English and Spanish was created for an outreach edition of the New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs called *The Key* in English and *La Llave* in Spanish.

Two special-needs Scripture Portions, in English and Spanish, one is for persons with HIV/AIDS called *Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of God* and the other is for victims of domestic violence called *The LORD Hears Your Cries*, were redesigned and reprinted.

Elementz of Life

Elementz of Life (EOL) seeks to reach youth who are not engaged in a traditional church experience. This multifaceted program aims to guide young people from at-risk behavior and to integrate them into the larger church community. During the year 180,000 copies of the Elementz of Life magazine were distributed and a new edition of the publication was developed. This faith-based publication applies Scriptures to the problems of young people involved in gangs, street life, and high-risk behavior. The magazine is supplemented with a music CD of Christian hip-hop music and material for use by youth pastors and leaders.

In Charlotte, NC, EOL magazines were distributed at WOW Jam (Winning our World), a week-long event mobilizing churches, businesses, volunteers and others to minister to needy urban residents with tangible evidence of God's love.

In related youth outreach, a youth leader training program with an urban emphasis called ACTS (Assesment, Consultation, Training and Support) taught youth leaders, through seminars and workshops, how to minister effectively in the areas of drugs, alcohol, child abuse and premarital sex. Biblically-based solutions were offered on the most challenging issues pastors, youth and young adult leaders faced in their ministry to youth.

Church Relations

In fiscal 2005, the efforts and activities of the Church Relations Department focused needs and opportunities in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, one of deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States. Thousands of people were killed, millions were evacuated; the financial cost of the devastation and havoc was calculated in billions of dollars.

The emotional burden of such a disaster was of a magnitude rarely seen except in times of war. While the physical needs for food, clothing, and shelter were being met, the American Bible Society helped victims and caregivers persevere through the calamity and its aftermath by providing Scripture resources for emotional and spiritual support. The Society distributed more than 1.5 million Bibles, New Testaments, and other Scripture materials to churches and ministries throughout the hurricane zone as well as those throughout the country working with evacuees.

With the tremendous need for replacement housing, the American Bible Society had an opportunity to partner with Habitat for Humanity, International, to provide a Bible, in any language, for every new Habitat home built in the United States. The English and Spanish language Bibles include

letters of welcome from the chief executives of both the American Bible Society and Habitat. Habitat for Humanity builds approximately 2,000 new homes per year in the continental United States.

The Bible Society cultivated working relationships with African-American ministry leaders, including the heads of the seven historical Black denominations. During Black History Month, for example, biblically-based activities were organized for Gospel Heritage Foundation's Praise and Worship Conference, the largest Christian gathering of African Americans.

Among Catholics, the Bible Society made presentations to parish representatives at regional meetings of the Archdiocese of New York, and the Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens and the Diocese of Metuchen, NJ. The American Bible Society participated in the National Catholic Education Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Bible-based Reading Programs

Development and field-testing were completed for two Bible-based reading programs that are now available for licensing through Bibles.com, the Bible Society's publishing branch. Field testing for Mission:Literacy was also completed. This Bible-based training program improves reading skills using Scripture. English Language Learner, a resource for teaching adults English as a second language was developed, piloted and tested. It also uses the Bible for reading material.

Encounter with the Bible – Lectio Divina Seminars

Through Lectio Divina Seminars, the American Bible Society Hispanic/Latino Ministries has been reintroducing Catholics to this ancient form of prayer and Scripture engagement. This past year, the focus for this work was in Los Angeles and New York. Through the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Bible Society trained more than 800 lay-people and nuns on the Lectio Divina method of engaging with the Bible daily. In addition, more than 70 lay-people attended two train-the-trainer seminars. Three more seminars were held in the New York Archdiocese and in Houston, TX, an additional seminar was held for more than 250 people.

Efforts to bring Lectio Divina Seminars to Miami and Los Angeles in the last quarter of the fiscal year continued through the Catholic Archdiocese and local parishes. In Los Angeles, the Bible Society worked with the Archdiocese and local congregations to train more than 300 people. Several priests who have implemented the program in their local parishes have seen positive results from congregants engaging with the Bible.

National Encounter for Hispanic Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The American Bible Society was the primary sponsor of the National Encounter for Hispanic Catholic Youth event that took place in Notre Dame, IN, bringing Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez from Honduras as one of the main speakers at the event. The event raised awareness and support for the work the Bible Society is doing through its Lectio Divina seminars.

24 Hours with the Bible

For 24 hours several radio networks in the U.S. and the Caribbean dramatized readings from the New Testament using the new Traducción en Lenguaje Actual (TLA). These broadcasts began in November, 2005, with Radio Vision Cristiana in Patterson, NJ and with the Genesis Network in

Miami, FL. The Radio Vision Cristiana network includes six radio stations in: New York (1 station) Dominican Republic (2 stations), Ecuador (2 stations) and Icaucus Island (1 station) in the Caribbean broadcasting to Cuba and Puerto Rico. Nearly 400 listeners called, including prisoners, blind people, children, and non-Bible readers, to testify that listening to the Bible being read was a positive experience. Calls (and letters) came from New York, New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Taiwan and Spain. Also, through the website (www.radiovision.net) letters were from listeners in several other parts of the world.

On November 18-19, 2005, a second 24-hour broadcast was heard in Miami, FL, with Genesis Network 90.9 FM and 88.3FM using the new Traducción en Lenguaje Actual. This prompted over 300 calls from different parts of Florida, Puerto Rico, New York, Alabama, Cuba, Ecuador and Dominican Republic. Through the website (www.genesisfm.com and www.883fm.com) letters came from listeners from all over. This year the Bible Society will repeat this radio event in New York and Miami with these radio networks.

Bible in Hispanic America in Miami

On June 15, 2006, Latino couples, leaders in their respective communities, met in Miami, FL, with Emilio Reyes, Vice President of Hispanic/Latino Ministries and the President of the American Bible Society, Dr. Paul Irwin. This kicked off a tour that includes five receptions in key cities (Miami, LA, Houston, Chicago and Washington D.C.) that are held in order to identify key potential donors in the Hispanic/Latino community, and have them learn more about the American Bible Society and its mission. One example of a highlighted program is Lectio Divina.

Minister Actualization Seminars

The Minister Actualization Seminars were held in New Jersey, Fort Lauderdale and Los Angeles. In New Jersey and Fort Lauderdale, the seminars were held with Iglesia Pentecostal Unidad Internacional (IPUL). IPUL has been participating in these events for the past three years and, as a result, has been donating yearly to the American Bible Society to further the mission. The President of IPUL, Pastor Eliseo Duarte, said that *“the American Bible Society has been an instrument of God to help Pastors build a Biblical foundation. Many of these pastors don’t have the time or the financial resources to attend a Seminar. Many are bi-vocational – full time jobs in the day, and pastors at night and many do not have an academic Biblical foundation.”*

In addition, the Bible Society held a seminar in Los Angeles with students from the *Instituto Biblico de la Arquidiocesis de Los Angeles* (the Los Angeles Archdiocese Biblical Institute).

Correctional Program

During fiscal 2005-2006, the American Bible Society’s Correctional Program granted a record of more than a half million Scriptures to correctional chaplains through a partnership with American Rehabilitation Ministries.

The American Bible Society maintains its status as America’s only large distributor to grant free Protestant and Catholic Scriptures to correctional chaplains nationwide. The Correctional Program equips a correctional chaplain every 5.04 minutes with a Bible Society Scripture for an inmate. In addition to this, the Bible Society hosted *The Sufficiency of Scripture* seminar in on April 7, 2006

Quotable quotes - Chaplain

“Please express our gratitude to all of your contributors and please keep the Bibles coming. Many inmates have testified in our services about how these Bibles have changed their lives and of how God has not forgotten them even in making sure that His Word is available to them when they are in the crisis of incarceration. We have no budget to purchase Bibles at the jail and we have 120,000 inmates pass through our institution every year. You and your organization are vital to putting the Bible into their hands and we have very few other available sources for this task.”

(Chaplain Rob Brown, Cook County Dept. of Corrections)

“Please let your donors know what a wonderful thing they are doing by providing these for the inmates. You have no idea how many people have found their way through pain and grief and brokenness through reading and sharing Scripture.”

(Chaplain Catherine Bazar, Twin Towers II Correctional Facility, Los Angeles, CA)

Quotable quotes - Inmates

“Of all the gifts I received I consider the greatest gift being my C.E.V. Holy Bible, which has been instrumental in helping to change me forever. My gratitude is such that I cannot put it into words fully. You have blessed me, and I will pray that the Lord continues to bless you all with the vital work you have done in His Name.” (Roderick)

“It helps give me faith for today and hope for the future. I know if I plan to stay out of here I need to find and attend church when I get out and through reading my bible I pray I'll have the strength to do so.” (Timothy)

Library and Archives

The library and archives of the American Bible Society provides research and reference services to Bible Society staff and outside researchers. To facilitate and broaden this support service, digitization of the Bible Society's archives, photos and historical essays is underway. The library provides strong support to the Bible Society's TV series, *American Bible Society Presents* through research, historical images and facts about the Bible Society.

Bibles.com

Bibles.com is the Scripture provision and publishing arm of the American Bible Society, supporting the Bible Society's mission through Scripture distribution. Bibles.com offers God's Word through a variety of new and sourced products in print and media formats as part of its commitment to be the “source” for Scripture and Scripture related resources.

In the Fall of 2005 Bibles.com supplied 1,153,000 copies of *God is Our Shelter and Strength* portions and 348,000 Bibles and New Testaments for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. These resources were given to victims free of charge as part of the Bible Society's response to the disaster.

In addition, Bibles.com sold over 3.9 million Scripture units during the past year. Some of the most requested products were: the *Reina Valera 1960 (RVR60) Low Cost and Outreach Edition* Bibles, *Greek New Testament with Greek/English Dictionary*, *New International Version (NIV) Low Cost Bible*, *Dios Habla Hoy (DHH) Spanish Low Cost Bible with Imprimatur*, *Contemporary English Version (CEV)*, *Children's Illustrated Bible*, *Good News Translation (GNT) Bible*, *New King James*

Version (NKJV) Low Cost Bible with Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible.

In keeping with its purpose to be the “source” for Scripture and Scripture based resources for its customers, Bibles.com continued to expand its product offerings to include the *GNT* Two-tone Catholic Bible, the Gullah/English New Testament, *The Bible and Its Influence*, the Today’s Parallel Bible, *My Little Puzzle Bible* in Spanish, the *RVR60 Renacer* Bible, *The Essential Bible* and the *Traducción en Lenguaje Actual (TLA)* and *CEV* English/Spanish Bible. The newly completed Gullah/English New Testament received favorable feedback in the media. Bibles.com also offers numerous academic/scholarly resources for pastors, Christian educators, and lay leaders for use in congregations. Moreover, Bibles.com carried in its inventory non-Scripture related products and over 200 international languages in order to serve a wider audience and the various ethnic groups in the U.S.

In the past year, Bibles.com licensed the Bible Society’s proprietary properties, including the *CEV* and *GNT*, to other major publishers, resulting in the co-branded Scholastic/American Bible Society *Read & Learn* Children’s Bible, selling over 350,000 copies in the first four months. Saint Mary’s Press’ Catholic Youth Bible, using the *GNT*, sold out of its first printing of 50,000 copies.



Bibles.com also launched its redesigned Web site in the fall of 2005, which lists approximately 800 Scripture and Scripture related resources. During the year Bibles.com received a total of 242,000 website referrals that generated sales of 270,502 Scripture units.

Bibles.com delivered 366,698 units of customized Scriptures were delivered to ministries and events such as the Universal Church, the Catholic Extension Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Youth Gathering, Mt. Zion Literature Ministry, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Vietnamese Ministries, Palmetto Health Baptist, Malta Prison Ministry and Western PA

Conference – United Methodist Church. Bibles produced for the Chaplain of the Texas Army National Guard were given to the soldiers returning from Iraq.

Bibles.com continued to expand its customer base by attending and exhibiting at major events and conventions throughout the U.S. These included the International Christian Retail Show (formerly known as CBA), Academy of American Religion/Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL), Evangelical Theological Society Regional Meetings and National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention. In order to reach the Spanish speaking population, Bibles.com also exhibited at leading Spanish and Catholic shows. One of major note is EXPOLIT, the largest Spanish Protestant trade show in the U.S., which also draws customers from Latin America and Europe.



Digital Scripture Initiative

More people than ever rely on their digital communication devices (e.g., PDA’s, cell phones, etc.) to help enrich their spiritual lives. A recent study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project states, “Nearly two-thirds of online Americans use the internet for faith-related reasons. The 64% of internet users who perform spiritual and religious activities online represent nearly 82 million Americans.” The American Bible Society has leveraged this phenomenon over the past year through its Digital Scripture Initiative (DSI) which creates Bible engagement tools, products, and services that will have mission and/or revenue impact for the organization.

The DSI team launched the Bible Society blog (www.shareyourstorynow.org) in March 2006 to collect and communicate visitors’ Bible impact stories. It also serves as a rallying point for Bible Society partnerships and program ministries. ForMinistry.com is another DSI technology initiative that continues to grow the American Bible Society online audience. To date, more than 25,000 churches and numerous National Bible Societies (i.e., Greece, Brazil, Spain, Kenya, Australia, Canada, and Nigeria) have utilized ForMinistry’s free web building and hosting services.

International

(\$24,196,915)

**WORLD DISTRIBUTION OF SCRIPTURES BY BIBLE SOCIETIES
January – December 2005**

	Bibles	Testaments	Portions	NRPortions	Selections	NRSelections
Africa	3,366,292	413,974	1,193,078	973,435	6,344,911	259,471
Americas	9,622,464	2,577,945	4,730,384	5,773,816	216,960,233	24,185,215

Asia-Pacific	8,926,754	5,719,964	6,483,301	3,815,021	57,894,164	4,845,046
Europe-Middle East	2,345,671	2,508,897	1,726,803	413,545	892,137	613,274
Total (Jan. – Dec. 2005)	24,261,178	11,220,780	14,133,566	10,975,817	282,091,445	29,903,006
<i>This year as % of last year:</i>	<i>97.2%</i>	<i>89.2%</i>	<i>81.0%</i>	<i>87.8%</i>	<i>94.2%</i>	<i>126.5%</i>

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF LANGUAGES WITH THE SCRIPTURES

A summary, by geographical area and type of publication, of the number of different languages and dialects in which publication of at least one book of the Bible had been registered as of December 31, 2005.

Continent/Region	Portions	Testaments	Bibles	Bibles, DC*	Total
Africa	223	301	159	(29)	683
Asia	218	244	131	(28)	593
Australia/New Zealand/ Pacific Islands	148	234	38	(9)	420
Europe	114	36	61	(47)	211
North America	39	30	7	(0)	76
Caribbean Islands / Central America / Mexico/South America	118	270	29	(9)	417
Constructed Languages	2	0	1	(0)	3
TOTALS	862	1,115	426	(122)	2,403

* This column is a sub-section of the Bibles column – for example, there is a translation of the Deuterocanon for 47 of the 61 languages of Europe in which the Bible has been translated.

[A few corrections were made to our language databases and are reflected in this statistical summary]

China Bible Exhibit

The American Bible Society provided leadership in sponsoring the China Christian Council/Three Self Patriotic Movement (CCC/TSPM) China Bible Ministry Exhibition in New York City in June 2006. The Exhibition featured the ministry of the Bible in China since Christianity was introduced there in 405 A.D. Bible production at the Nanjing Amity Printing Company, established in 1987, was a focal point of the Exhibition. The American Bible Society and its donors paid for the initial printing press and continue to provide paper to subsidize Scripture production for the people of China.

The China Partnership saw the printing of the 40 millionth Bible for mainland China in November 2005. A total of 5.2 million Bibles were printed in 2005, the highest annual volume in the 18-year history of the Company. Of these, 3.4 million copies were printed for the Church in China and the rest were produced for export to Bible Societies and other publishers overseas. At the end of 2005, 40.5 million copies of the Bible had been printed at the Amity Press. Including New Testaments, Amity Press had completed 46.8 million copies of Bibles and New Testaments since 1987, with 37.6 million copies for Mainland China and the rest for export overseas. These Bibles, distributed through a China Christian Council network, have enriched the lives of people in China.

Egypt

The American Bible Society's *Kingsley's Meadow* video series (called Kingo in Egypt) has become a household word through a nationwide publicity campaign. Special events drew thousands in different cities. The programs instill vital Christian values in young children.

Russia

The St. Petersburg Bible Society was set up on order of Alexander 1 in 1812 and it became the Bible Society of Russia in 1814. After a long intermission during the Communist period, the Bible Society was restored in 1990. Translation teams now are set up in various republics of the Russian Federation—in Chuvashia, Tatarstan, Northern Osetia-Alania, Bashkortostan, Buryatia, Yukutia and Altai. Translations of Bible books are carried out which had never existed before in these particular languages.

East Timor

East Timor is now the location of one of the newest Bible translations in the world. The first workshop of the Fataluku Bible Translation project has been held and work on translating the Gospel of Luke is ongoing. Speakers of the Fataluku language, numbering about 30,000, live on the remote eastern tip of Timor.

Bible Society of the South Pacific

The Bible Society is working alongside the United Nations' Children's Fund to translate and produce *HIV 101* into four Pacific languages—Fijian, Hindi, Tongan and Samoan. The translations are expected to bring about a greater awareness of HIV/AIDS among the young people of the Pacific.

Burkina Faso

The program Faith Comes By Hearing gained great interest among those who encountered it and the readings of the God's Word in their heart language drew many who gathered each week to listen to the Bible. The Bible published in Gulmancema was published, as was the Bible in Bobo Madaré.

Gambia

Two active Bible translation projects are in Mandinka and Jola. Reviewer training courses and workshops were held bringing together believers in the country for an instructional time and also for

building fellowship and promoting the use of the Bible. Bible Sunday was observed throughout the country.

Senegal

Literacy is a major project of the Bible Society in Senegal and many classes were held in various locations. And distribution of Scripture has been enabled through a peaceful time in the country.

Chad

The introduction of the Faith Comes By Hearing program has been of great benefit to Ngambai speakers. There were 44 listening groups divided between the cities of N'Djamena and Moundou. Pastors report that the listening sessions enable many relevant questions of Christian life to be raised. Three translation projects are underway. The languages are Mbai, Gulei and Kera. These projects are expected to be completed in 2006.

Gabon

The Bible Society of Gabon was able to be the first Christian organization to formally present a Bible to the President of the Republic. They gave him *Bible Expliquee, Catholic Version*.

India

Translation projects are vital in India with more than 50 of them underway in the country. Some have been ongoing for a while and others are rather new. The languages range from Aimol to Zou. Some of the language group speakers comprise a fairly small number of people while others, like Tamil, Marathi and Telugu, have 75 million speakers each.

Community Involvement

The American Bible Society's headquarters, located at Broadway and 61st streets, within Community Board 7 (CB7) and the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District on the West side of Manhattan serves its local constituents and neighbors in numerous ways.

Because, as a non-profit organization, the Society benefits from the exemption of real estate tax, it strives to "give back" by providing support of and leadership in local community activities. These include:

- Classes for Senior Citizens on how to use the Internet, held at the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center (LSNC)
- Hosts and funds three annual luncheons at its headquarters for the seniors from the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center.
- Runs several annual food and book drives for the seniors and children at the LSNC that provide much needed food and reading resources.
- Is a Major Sponsor in the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District's (LSBID) Winter's Eve event at Lincoln Square.

- funds the planting and maintenance of the Broadway mall between 61st and 62nd streets.
- Frequently contributes its facilities for conferences and meetings by local non-profit, religious and community minded groups.
- Provides a substantially reduced short term lease to the offices of Community Board 7 while their main space undergoes renovation. Included is use of the main floor meeting spaces for open public meetings organized by CB7.
- Received the LSNC's Community Service award.
- The Society offers its ground floor space to the local precinct for emergency use during any local emergency preparedness incidents.
- The Society gives financial and volunteer support to YOUTH INC which improves the lives of youth through a unique venture philanthropy model that empowers, develops and educates non-profit organizations serving youth people. Through the Bible Society's support, a direct, positive impact is made to improve the lives of youth at the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, which is located just a short distance away from the Bible Society.
- A promising new relationship was begun with the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding building interreligious understanding, and defusing the verbal and physical violence done in the name of religion.

Staff Outreach to the Community

The H.O.P.E. Committee (Helping through Outreach Programs and Events), made up of Bible Society staff members, finds and facilitates ways to connect staff members to the needs of the surrounding community. The H.O.P.E. Committee encourages Bible Society staff to volunteer during the workday. This Employee Service Program approves service activity for up to two hours per week and for at least two full days per year as paid time off.

A brand new initiative called *Sponsor a kid (at heart)* is directed to the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center and aims "to nourish both the body and the soul." *Sponsor a Kid (at heart)* looks to feed, entertain and provide a door to dialogue with the less fortunate elders of our community

