


A photograph of an elderly man with grey hair, smiling broadly and showing his teeth. He is wearing a blue button-down shirt over a grey turtleneck. He is holding a large, flat cardboard box with both hands. The background is a textured red wall. The text "Thank you" is written in a white, cursive script across the center of the image.

Thank
you



S T E W A R D S H I P 2 0 1 9

A photograph of three young African children standing in a row, smiling warmly. The child in the center is wearing a teal sweater and has their hair in braids. An adult's hand is gently resting on the head of the child on the left. The child on the right is also smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing a textured wall.

I WILL GIVE
THANKS TO YOU, LORD,
WITH ALL MY HEART;
I WILL TELL OF ALL
YOUR WONDERFUL
DEEDS.

PSALM 9:1 (NIV)

Thank you.

Your gifts are changing lives. Your prayers are moving mountains. Your faithfulness is bringing God's message of love to those who need it.



DEAR FRIENDS,

Two simple words summarize the purpose of this annual report:

Thank you.

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank you for sharing the Bible's message of God's love with those who need it. Each testimony of joy, healing, and transformation in this report was made possible through your generous gifts and passionate prayers.

Thank you.

This year, we also extend our warmest thanks to Roy Peterson and his wife, Rita. At the end of 2019, Roy retired as American Bible Society's President and CEO after serving faithfully in that role for more than five years. It is truly impossible to convey the spiritual impact of Roy and Rita's decades of service in the Bible Cause.

Thank you.

Above all, we give thanks to the Lord from whom all blessings flow. In every season of change, he will remain faithful. As the stories in this report show, his Spirit is on the move, changing lives in our nation and around the world. What a deep privilege and joy to serve him together!

Thank you, Lord!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert L. Briggs".

ROBERT L. BRIGGS
Interim President and CEO
American Bible Society



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Thank you for TRANSLATION

This year, you supported
113 BIBLE TRANSLATIONS,
bringing God's Word to life
for **320,000,000 PEOPLE.**

Here is a story of
gratitude and joy from
just one of the people
groups you are reaching.

SHOUT FOR JOY!

BECAUSE OF YOU, ANGOLA'S UMBUNDU PEOPLE
FINALLY HAVE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IN THEIR
MOTHER TONGUE.

Ulu!

You've probably never seen this word in your Bible. But the Umbundu people in Angola have seen it in theirs.

Ulu!

They can find this word in Matthew 25:6, which reads, "Ulu, ulu, sandombwa yo wiya!" or, "Here comes the bridegroom!"

Ulu!

It is a word of ecstasy—a shrill cry of joy ringing out during a long-awaited celebration.

Ulu!

And it's the perfect word to express the joy that your prayers, love, and support have brought to the Umbundu people.

After decades of waiting, your brothers and sisters in Angola finally have the New Testament in the language of their hearts.

**The Umbundu people
have been waiting for God's Word.**

Before you entered their story, the Umbundu people could describe their relationship to the Bible in a single word: *Waiting*.

Several barriers prevented them from experiencing God's message of love in the language of their hearts.

For one thing, use of the Umbundu language was suppressed during the Portuguese colonization of Angola.

"If we would have taught our children Umbundu, they would have been beaten by their teachers," explains Amos Mulanda, a retired schoolteacher. "Our colleagues called Umbundu, *'the language of a dog.'*"



Even after Angola obtained independence in 1975, civil war raged for decades. The mission of bringing God's Word to the Umbundu people remained fitful, painstaking, and slow.

You made the difference they needed.

Something needed to change. *Someone* needed to step in and ensure that the 6 million Umbundu people in Angola can fellowship with their Lord through the Scriptures.

You were that someone! Your prayers and support dramatically accelerated the translation of God's Word into Umbundu.

"We used to work by candlelight," says Albertino Nunes, leader of the Umbundu translation team. "We didn't have computers for everybody. We had one person who would type."

Can you picture Albertino and his team, huddled by the flickering light of a candle, slowly pecking away on a single keyboard? Can you feel the urgency in their hearts?

What a difference to have you standing by their side.

"An enormous step has been taken!" Albertino exclaims. "Now we have offices where we work. Everyone has their own computers. We've had training in the latest Bible translation software. We are very happy and grateful!"

PRAY WITH US

for the 138 million people who still don't have any Scripture in their heart language. Lift them up in prayer at abs.bible/stewprayer19



"WE USED TO WORK BY CANDLELIGHT.

NOW WE HAVE OFFICES WHERE WE WORK.

WE ARE VERY HAPPY AND GRATEFUL!"

– THE UMBUNDU TRANSLATION TEAM

“AFTER RECEIVING MY NEW
TESTAMENT, I GAVE GREAT LEAPS
OF JOY IN MY HOUSE AND MANY
SMILES OF JOY!”

One little girl jumped for joy.

Once Albertino and his team had the resources they needed, the Umbundu people soon welcomed the New Testament into their hearts and homes with vibrant dancing and singing.

“Before, we had to read the Bible in Portuguese,” says Julia Nangueve, a 55-year-old Umbundu woman. “But now I will start reading the New Testament in Umbundu, as this is my mother tongue.”

One young girl named Adriana literally leapt for joy when she received the priceless treasure of God’s Word.

“After receiving my New Testament, I gave great leaps of joy in my house and many smiles

of joy,” Adriana says. “I want to have a good relationship with God, and this New Testament will help me achieve that.”

Thank you for sharing God’s Word!

The Bible translation journey in Angola is not over yet. It will take a few more years to complete the Old Testament.

“With your help,” says translator Domingos Vicente, “the Umbundu people will soon have a new Bible in their hands, and the name of Jesus Christ will be glorified in Angola.”

Thanks to you, a day is quickly approaching when the Umbundu people will once again lift their voices to God with a mighty “Ulu!” 📖

PRAY WITH US
as we seek to
begin Bible
translation
work for every
language group
on earth by the
year 2026.



*Thank you
from Adriana*
AND THE UMBUNDU PEOPLE



Thank you for

TRAUMA HEALING

This year, you helped
19,000 PEOPLE experience
the love and comfort of
Jesus through Bible-based
trauma healing.

Here is just one story of
how God is using you to
bind up the wounds of
the brokenhearted.

THE FATHER'S LOVE

YOU HELPED A SUFFERING MAN IN
GUATEMALA EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF OUR
HEAVENLY FATHER.

It was the worst birthday ever.
When José turned five, his parents took him and his siblings to a restaurant for dinner. It soon became clear that this wasn't a joyous celebration for little José.

It was the last time his family would share a meal together.

José's parents had decided to separate. Now José and his siblings had a heartbreaking choice to make: would they live with their mother or with their father? "Who are you leaving with?" the parents asked their children at the end of the dinner.

José suffered deeply as a child.

When José picks up the broken pieces of his childhood, he sees that fateful birthday dinner

as the moment that everything in his life started to unravel.

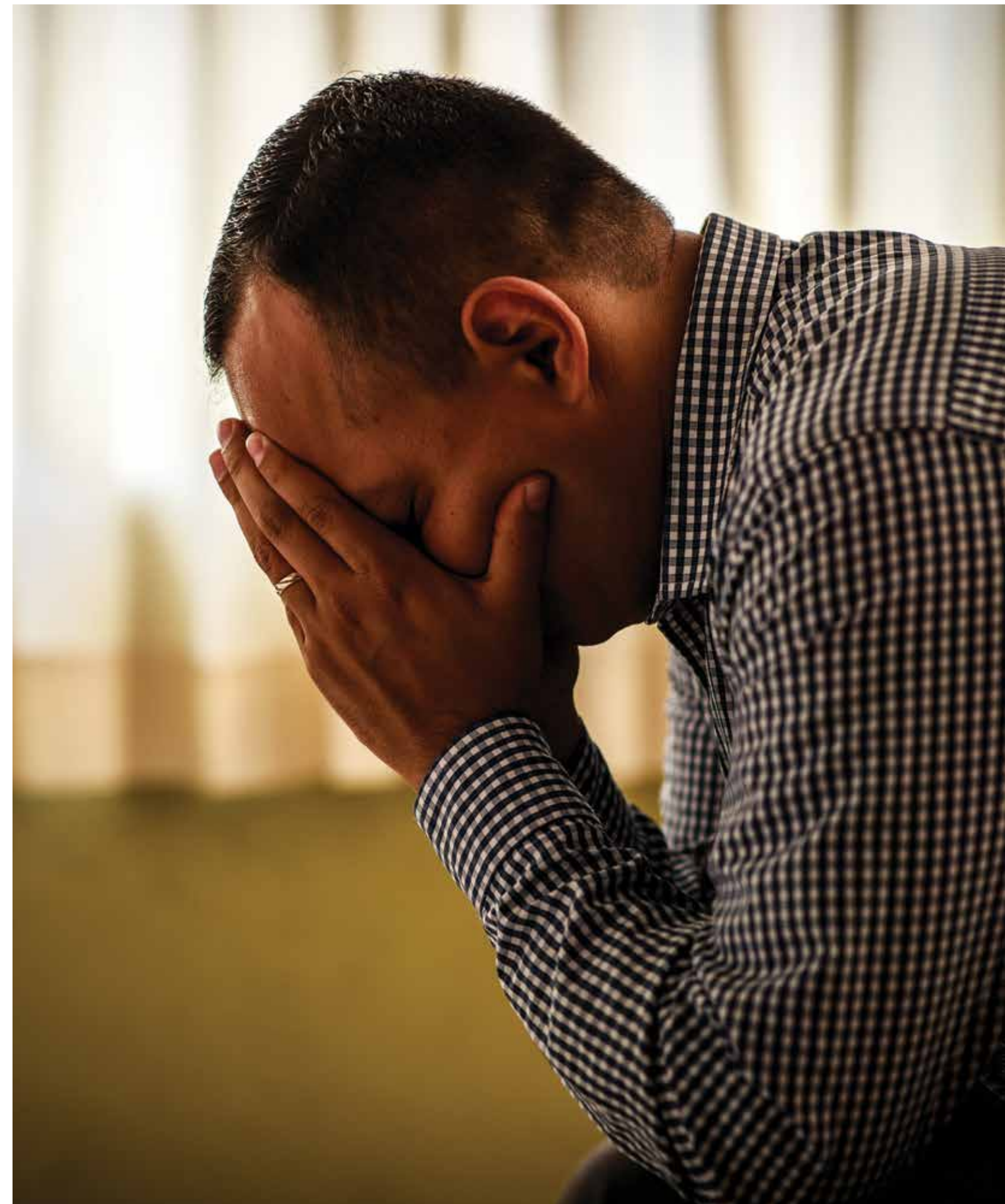
"It marks the start of a tragic story," he says. "In the wake of my parents' separation, a series of sexual abuses began against myself."

When José was at his most vulnerable, a close relative started abusing him. The assaults continued for many years. One day, when he was 12 years old, José stood up to his abuser.

"I decided to defend myself," he says, "to never allow such a thing to happen to me again."

But five years later, his abuser found a new way to hurt José.

"When I was 17, they detected HIV in my blood," José explains. "When I found out, I just wanted to die. I locked myself in grief and denial."





“GOD SUFFERS
WITH THOSE WHO SUFFER.
I LEARNED TO SEE HIM AGAIN AS
THE GOOD FATHER HE IS.”

– JOSÉ IN GUATEMALA

José felt like God had abandoned him.

In his anguish, José cried out to his heavenly Father. “I spent many years asking God, ‘Why?’ and ‘What did this happen for?’” he says. “I didn’t get an answer.” The silence pained José.

“I saw God as a father who failed to take care of me,” he admits. “I started to blame God in the same way I blamed my parents.”

José attempted to end his life by swallowing a handful of pills. Thankfully, his sister found him and rushed him to the hospital.

José survived. But pain and confusion continued to consume him.

You helped him experience God’s healing love.

This is where you entered José’s story. Your prayers and support brought American Bible Society’s Bible-based trauma healing ministry to his local church.

Bible-based trauma healing brings together proven mental health practices and Scripture engagement to help people heal from abuse, violence, and disasters.

In small healing groups, participants read the Bible to discover how a good God responds to our suffering. They learn about the journey of healing made possible by Jesus. They learn to forgive those who hurt them.

“When we learned about why people suffer, God opened my eyes and allowed me to heal my heart,” José says, reflecting on God’s intimate love for his children, even in the midst of deep pain and suffering.

PRAY WITH US
for the 10,000 church
leaders who facilitate
Bible-based trauma
healing around the globe.
Pray for them with us at
abs.bible/stewprayer19

“IF GOD GAVE ME HOPE,
THEN HE CAN GIVE HOPE TO
EVERYONE ELSE!”

In God’s Word, José rediscovered his heavenly Father’s unbreakable love—a love that culminated in the death of Jesus on the cross.

“There are many parts in the Bible in which God suffers with those who suffer. He wishes to heal them,” José says. “I learned to see him again as the good Father that he is.”

**Now José is sharing
God’s hope with others.**

Today, José shares the Father’s love with suffering people in his community.

“God healed me so that I could help others heal!” he says.

As a pastor, José and his wife lead Bible-based trauma healing groups at their church in Guatemala. Through your support, the healing

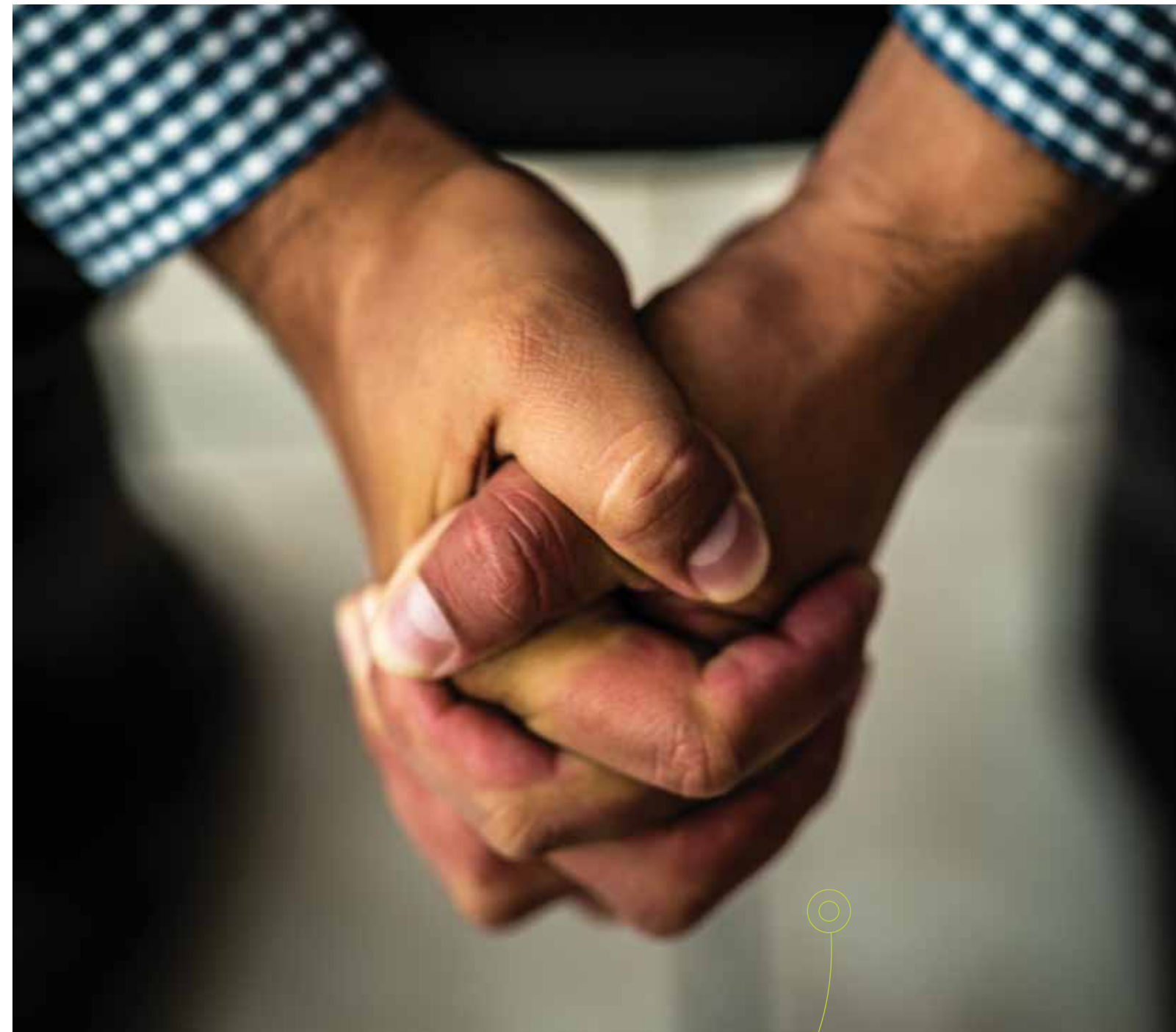
power of God’s Word is multiplying in their community.

“Many young people come to me and my wife to talk about their traumatic experiences,” he says. “Many of them have experienced physical and sexual abuse. I share my story with pleasure, because I know that someone who is listening might be going through something similar.”

Friends, through your generous support and fervent prayers, José and so many like him now know that absolutely nothing can separate us from the perfect love of our heavenly Father. Thank you for bringing them hope in their darkest hour.

“If God gave me hope,” says José, “then he can give hope to everyone else!” 🌱

PRAY WITH US
Use Scripture to pray for the suffering and brokenhearted:
abs.bible/thblog



*Thank you
from José*

AND HIS CHURCH IN GUATEMALA



Thank you for

TRANSFORMING AMERICA

This year, you helped
1,340,000 PEOPLE in the
United States engage more
deeply with God's Word on
a regular basis.

Here is just one story of
life transformation from
a grateful U.S. Military
Veteran in Arizona.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT,
U.S. VETERANS FIND HEALING IN CHRIST.

Horror. Torture. War crimes.
These are just some of the words
that Bill Wargo uses to describe
what he experienced as an Army intelligence
officer in the Vietnam War.

After an assault in which most of his team
was killed, Bill landed back on U.S. soil.

As he walked the colorful streets of San
Francisco, just three days after trudging
through the bloodstained jungles of Vietnam,
a single question ran through Bill's mind:

"What planet have I landed on?"

**Bill was haunted by
his memories of Vietnam.**

Bill's trauma, as well as the political turmoil
surrounding the war, alienated him from
ordinary civilians. Like many young Veterans,

guilt and cynicism drove a wedge between
him and faith.

"I was a pretty disheartened individual," he
says. "I stopped going to church entirely."

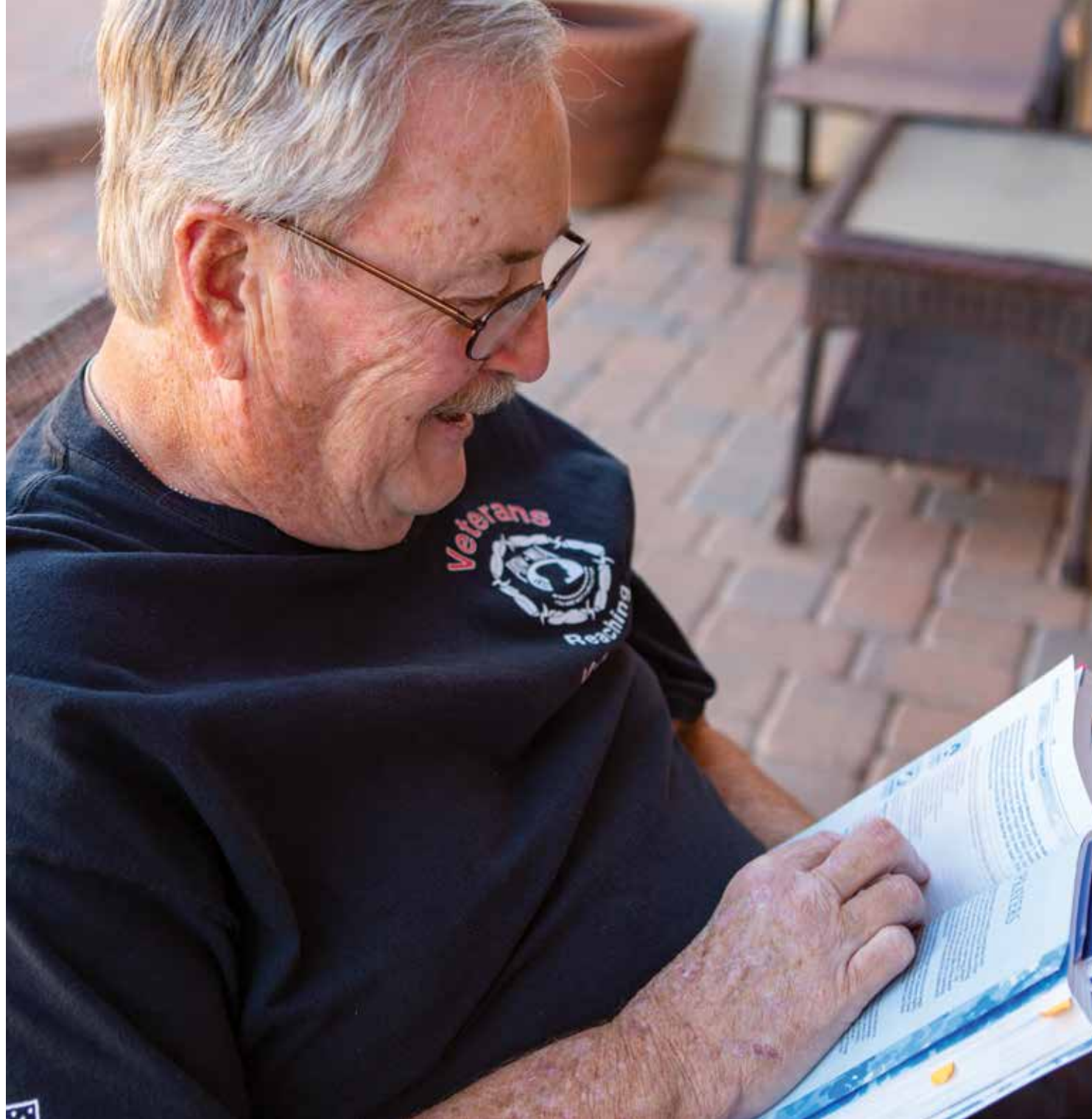
But several decades later, God started to heal
the wounds of war etched onto Bill's heart and
mind. It started in 2012 when Bill miraculously
came to faith in Jesus through a church that
his wife, Sharon, was attending. Practically
overnight, Jesus turned Bill's life around.

"I don't tell people that I found Jesus," Bill says.
"I tell them that *Jesus* found *me*."

And yet, it took another five years for Bill to
fully understand just how deeply he needed
Jesus to heal him from the horrors of Vietnam.

"Although I was converted in 2012, it wasn't
until 2017 that I was diagnosed with Post
Traumatic Stress—a full 50 years after my
military service in Vietnam," Bill explains.





“WE’RE ALL IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE
EVERY DAY. THE BIBLE EQUIPS US FOR
THE DAILY WAR AGAINST EVIL.”

– VIETNAM WAR VETERAN BILL WARGO

God helped him find healing in Christ.

Your prayers and support helped Bill find the spiritual encouragement that he desperately needed at this pivotal point in his life!

First Bill joined a faith-based support group for Veterans called Point Man—and was soon leading a group of his own. For the first time, he and his fellow Veterans were able to talk about their wartime memories without shame.

“It’s very raw,” he says, “to be able to truly open up and not fear being judged for things that you did, many times at a very young age and many times under orders from superior officers.”

This weekly lifeline was powerful—for some literally a lifesaver. And through your support, this connection to God and to a community that intimately understands the military experience is available to Bill and his fellow Veterans every hour of every day.

PRAY WITH US

for our nation’s suffering heroes. Approximately 20 U.S. Veterans take their own lives every day. Cry out to God at abs.bible/stewprayer19

You provided Bill with many life-changing Scripture resources.

Through his local VA chaplain, Bill discovered the full suite of spiritual resources that you provide for our nation’s military community through American Bible Society’s Armed Services Ministry.

“THERE IS LITERALLY NO WAY ON
EARTH TO QUANTIFY HOW THESE BIBLE
RESOURCES COMFORT AND INSPIRE
MILITARY VETERANS.”

PRAY WITH US
as we seek to
see 100 million
Americans, like
Bill, regularly
engaging with
the Bible by the
year 2026.

Bill says he was blown away to discover this treasure trove of Scripture resources designed specifically for U.S. Military members and their families—including *The Warrior’s Bible* (Bill’s favorite), which is full of testimonies and devotions written by over 100 Veterans and Military members, *Take a Knee*, a 30-day prayer devotional, and *Journey of a Military Wife*, a devotional series for military spouses.

“I immediately started distributing these materials to my Point Man group!” Bill says. “They cause such a surge in healing. The only true healing from what we’re dealing with is through a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Before long, Bill’s new military Bible was full of underlined verses, highlighted notes, and sticky bookmarks. Guided by the wisdom of fellow Veterans, Bill draws daily strength from God’s Word for his spiritual battles.

“We’re all in a constant battle every day—whether it’s with temptation or anxiety or

pornography or adultery,” Bill explains. “The Bible applies to the war against evil just as much as it applies to the war in Vietnam, Afghanistan, or Iraq.”

Thank you for caring for our brave Veterans!

For generations of Veterans healing from the wounds of war, the journey can be a long one.

Because of your generosity, Bill is walking the road of healing with Jesus every single day—and dozens of his fellow Veterans are following in his footsteps.

“There is literally no way on earth to quantify how these Bible resources comfort and inspire Military Veterans,” Bill says. “To call them ‘life-changing’ is not enough to fully express how profound and significant these books have been. Thank you!”



Thank you
from Bill

AND HIS FELLOW U.S. VETERANS

THERE'S

so much more

TO THANK YOU FOR.

YOUR
Innovation

Last year, you brought the gospel message to more than 2.4 million people through film, audio, and print—all in close partnership with like-minded churches and ministries.

See how it works at
abs.bible/end2end

YOUR
Vision

You made it possible to begin constructing the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center, which champions the biblical values that guide and strengthen our nation. It is set to open in Fall 2020.

Start exploring today at
faithandliberty.org

YOUR
Prayers

God has blessed us with 20,000 prayer partners in 25 countries. We thank God for each of you and your passionate prayers!

Sign up to pray with us at
abs.bible/stewprayer19

YOUR
Witness

Empowered by your prayers and support, a coalition of Scripture translation agencies called illumiNations is working to translate the full Bible into every language by 2033.

Learn more at
illumiNations.bible



EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE
GOES DIRECTLY TO
LIFE-CHANGING BIBLE
MINISTRY IN OUR NATION
AND AROUND THE GLOBE.

Friends, the powerful stories in this report were made possible through your prayers and support this year. Thank you for being such a faithful and generous steward of God's resources.

We know there are many worthy ministries that seek your support, so we thank you for your trust as you share God's message of love with those who desperately need it.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Mark R. Wilson

MARK WILSON, CPA, MBA
Senior Vice President and CFO

GENEROSITY REPORT

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019 (\$ MILLIONS)



MINISTRY RESOURCES

■ Contributions	\$51.9
■ Funds deployed from long-term investments	\$40.1
■ Legacies	\$7.5
■ Scripture sales	\$3.4
■ Other	\$2.7

Total Ministry Resources **\$105.6**



MINISTRY INVESTMENT

■ Bible Ministry	\$90.1
■ Development	\$17.3
■ Administration	\$5.8
■ FLDC Construction	\$5.0

Total Ministry Investment **\$118.2**

This year, we became aware that the financial needs of our global Bible Society partners were greater and more urgent than we had budgeted. The generosity of our financial partners, past and present, enabled us to meet these needs.

100% of your giving
GOES DIRECTLY TO BIBLE MINISTRY

All figures above are unaudited. Audited financials are made available at abs.us/stewardship.

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So that all
 people may
 experience the
 life-changing
 message
 of the Bible

OUR MISSION

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)





AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

AmericanBible.org