



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

# STEWARDSHIP 2023

*Thank  
you*

圣经

*Seek ye first  
the kingdom  
of God, and his  
righteousness;  
and all these  
things shall be  
added unto you.*

MATTHEW 6:33 KJV





*Dear Gospel Partner,*

If you feel like you never have enough time, you're not alone.

Americans today lead hurried lives. We often respond to the question "How are you?" with "Busy." We end too many days dreading everything we need to do tomorrow.

This lifestyle affects our relationships, health, and happiness. And it can also impact our faith. In American Bible Society's 2023 *State of the Bible* report, people told us the number one reason they don't read the Bible as much as they want to is because they *don't have enough time*.

We see a very different perspective in the pages of Scripture.

Our God is not rushed. He fulfills his promises right on time, every time. And his purpose—to fill our hearts with the knowledge, glory, and love of Jesus Christ through his Word—endures beyond the span or busyness of our human lives.

When you engage with the timeless truth of Scripture, it transforms the way you view the world—and how you live in it. The demands of your day don't disappear. But you gain a new view of your life's purpose as you participate in God's call to share his life-changing Word with all people.

This year, you shared that eternal perspective through your kingdom partnership with American Bible Society. It's my honor to thank you on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people this year who personally experienced the promise of Jesus in their own hearts: "*I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness*" (John 10:10b GNT). Hallelujah!

As you encounter the smiling faces who have found eternal hope through your gift, I pray your busyness would momentarily fade from view in the pages of this report. **Because you answered God's call, you changed their lives forever.**  
*Thank you!*

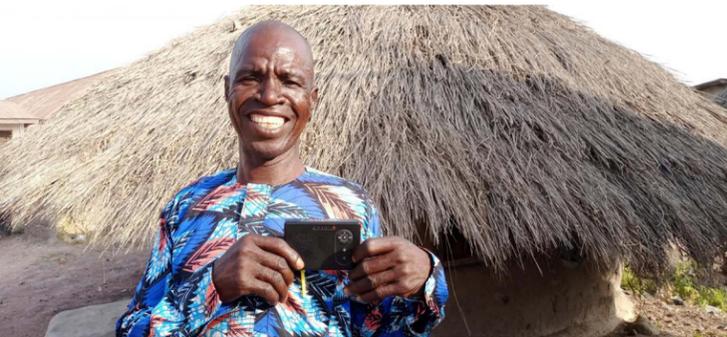
In Christ,

**John Farquhar Plake, Ph.D.**  
*Chief Ministry Officer*



# Because You Answered God's Call, You Changed Their Lives Forever!

Thank you from people around the world who experienced God's life-changing message this year!



## Nigeria

**Thank you from communities transformed by End-to-End:** You helped unreached people experience the good news of Jesus through this unique multi-ministry partnership.



## Vietnam

**Thank you from Deaf communities experiencing Scripture through sign language:** You accelerated Bible translation for Deaf communities, ensuring that all people can receive the message of the gospel.

## Sri Lanka

**Thank you from suffering people who found healing in the pages of Scripture:** Your support helped us develop new Bible-based trauma healing resources and apps to comfort wounded hearts with the message of Jesus.



## U.S.A.

**Thank you from Faith and Liberty Discovery Center visitors:** You helped curious Americans see Scripture in a new light through this state-of-the-art museum on Philadelphia's Independence Mall.



## Ukraine

**Thank you from families fleeing war and disaster:** You blessed thousands of families in Ukraine, as well as others in Armenia and here in the United States, with the gift of God's Word and vital aid in their most vulnerable moments.



## Indonesia

**Thank you from remote communities reached with the love of Christ:** You empowered our global network of Bible Societies to carry your gift of Scripture to the ends of the earth.

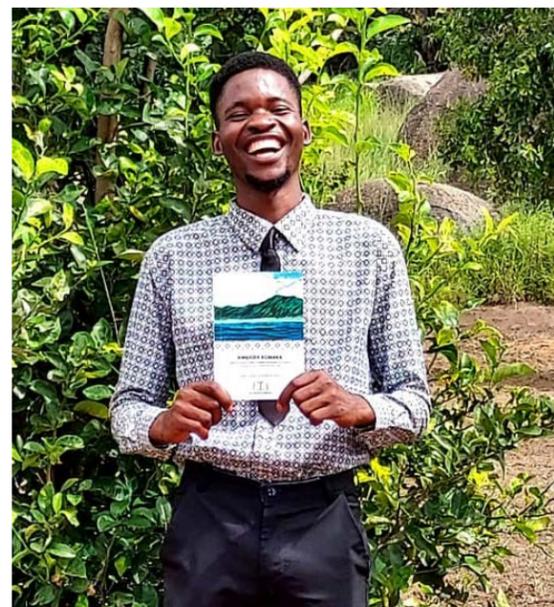


## 📍 China

**Thank you from Chinese believers longing for their own Bibles:** You answered the prayers of Chinese brothers and sisters who could not afford to purchase a Bible.

## 📍 U.S.A.

**Thank you from Military members, Veterans, and their families:** You showed your support for our nation's heroes with Scripture, Military-specific apps, and resources to help their families rest in God's love.



## 📍 Angola

**Thank you from people who have never had God's Word in their heart language—until now:** You advanced the Great Commission by prayerfully supporting the work of Bible translation.

# “I've Been Overpowered With Joy!”

Ever since he can remember, Jean\* has called a small orphanage in Benin his home.

“I was brought here as a baby,” he says. Fifteen years later, the red walls and dusty courtyard are all he's ever known.

For most of his young life, Jean heard about God from the orphanage caretakers. But he says that he didn't really know God until you blessed the children at Jean's orphanage with their very own Bibles!

Jean remembers how happy he was to receive such a special gift from you. But then he opened his new Bible and began to read it for the first time.

“When I started reading the Bible, my heart changed,” Jean says. “I realized that God really loves me. From that day, I changed the way I worshiped God.”

Today, Jean treasures the words of Jesus in John 4:24, which he now says is his favorite Bible verse: “God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth” (CEV).

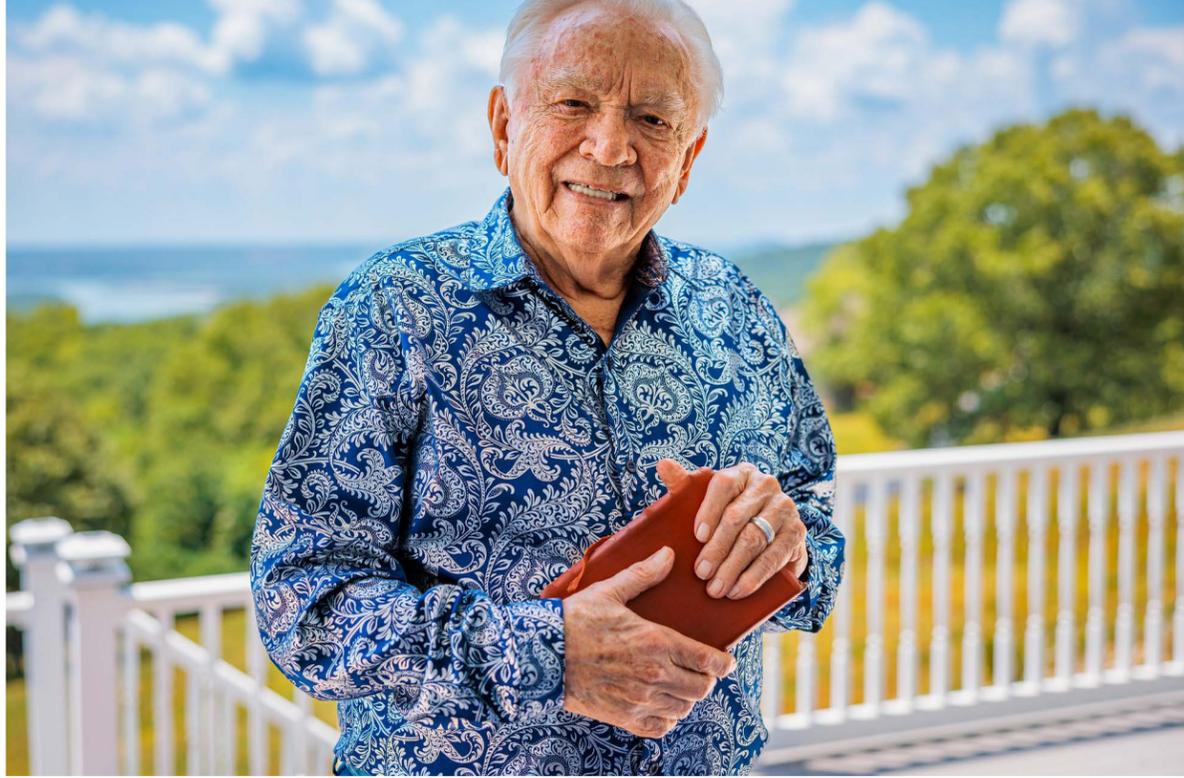
Thanks to you, Jean now knows the truth of Scripture and dedicates his life to worshiping God with his whole heart. Today, he is proud to lead the other children in studying God's Word and praying to their heavenly Father.

“I've been overpowered with joy in receiving this Bible!” Jean says. “Thank you very much!”



*“When I started reading the Bible, my heart changed. I realized that God really loves me.”*

\*We've changed Jean's name and withheld his full likeness to protect his privacy. But the smile you see on this page is real, and the difference you've made in Jean's life is eternal! Thank you!



## A Life Worth Living

**Just like you, American Bible Society partner Dr. Cecil Todd found a way to answer God's call through Bible ministry**

Even at 92 years old, Dr. Cecil Todd still remembers the fear he felt when he realized that God was calling him to preach.

"I was about 15 years old," he says, "and I had never owned a Bible."

Raised as one of 11 children in the mountains of Oklahoma, Dr. Todd describes himself as a timid boy. Like Jonah, he tried to avoid God's calling by running the opposite direction. Then, he became so ill that even the doctor couldn't help.

"I asked the Lord to heal me," Dr. Todd says. "I wanted to know that it was really him that wanted me to be a preacher."

Within two days, God answered Dr. Todd's prayer. That was all the proof he needed. He went, barefoot and shirtless, to the tiny schoolhouse church and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. Then he bought his first Bible and put himself through Bible college with money earned from picking cotton. Ever since then, he says, "I've never wanted to do anything else but preach the gospel, win souls, and see lives changed."

As a preacher, Dr. Todd has traveled 3 million miles across the United States and around the world to share the gospel. He founded Revival Fires International, a ministry dedicated to global evangelism, and has preached to crowds totaling more than a million people.

*"My heart was with what American Bible Society was doing."*

But Dr. Todd didn't just want to spread God's Word through preaching. He wanted to provide Bibles to people who needed them—people like that 15-year-old boy growing up in rural Oklahoma.

"Once I knew how desperately I needed the Bible, I realized that other people are in the same boat as me," he says. "If they don't have a Bible, then they don't know the way to heaven."

Dr. Todd saw a critical opportunity to give the gift of Scripture when the Gulf War began in 1990 and many U.S. Troops went into dangerous combat zones without Bibles. That's when he learned about the work of American Bible Society, which has served the U.S. Military with God's Word since 1817.

"When I found out about American Bible Society, it was an answer to prayer—for me, for the people I grew up with who didn't have Bibles, for our troops," Dr. Todd says. "My heart was with what American Bible Society was doing."

Dr. Todd raised the funds to provide more than

50,000 Bibles for the young men and women putting their lives at risk to serve their nation. Ever since then, he and his wife, Linda, have remained passionate supporters of the work and mission of American Bible Society.

"We're thankful for the partnership we've had with American Bible Society," Dr. Todd says.

But they are also thankful for believers like you, who join them in answering God's call to share the gospel with all the world.

"It's up to us Christians," says Dr. Todd, with a hint of preacher's fire in his voice. "We're the ones who have been commissioned to tell people about Jesus. It's a life-or-death matter, but too many times we don't treat it that way. So I often ask the question like this: 'Would you give your last dollar so that others can have the roadmap for living or dying?'"

For Dr. Todd, the answer is as clear as it was nearly 75 years ago: "Yes—because being able to fulfill God's call in your life is what makes life worth living."

**Thank you for answering God's call to share his Word! To continue your legacy of Bible ministry for future generations, speak with one of our Gift Planning advisors today!**

 Call **1-800-549-3328**

 Email **GiftPlanner@AmericanBible.org**

 Visit **ABSGift.org**

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

## YOUR GENEROSITY (MINISTRY RESOURCES)

Direct contributions	36.8 M
Funds deployed from long-term investments	31.5 M
Legacies	6.7 M
Scripture sales	5.6 M
Other	3.0 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.6 M</b>

## OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT (MINISTRY INVESTMENTS)

Bible Ministry	71.8 M
Bible Translation	18.1 M
First Bible Provision	18.2 M
Armed Services Ministry	11.0 M
Bible-Based Trauma Healing	7.1 M
Faith and Liberty Initiative	9.4 M
Digital Tools	5.5 M
Additional Ministry	2.5 M
Development	13.7 M
Administration	9.3 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.8 M</b>



Note: Figures presented here and on the following page represent unaudited operational activities in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

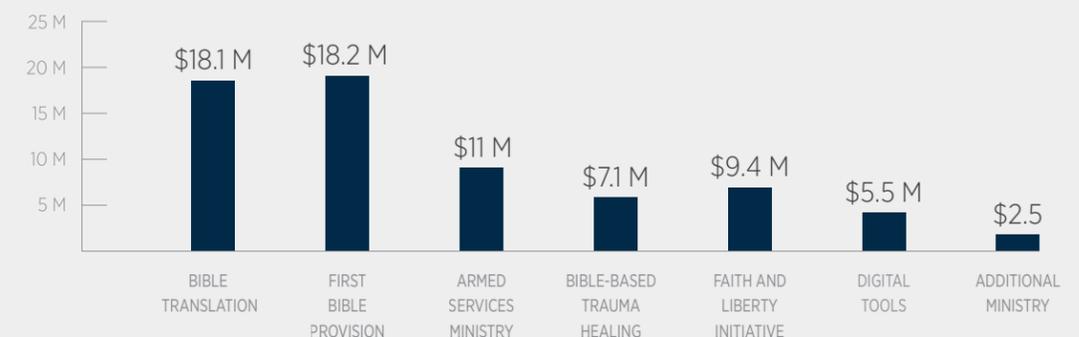
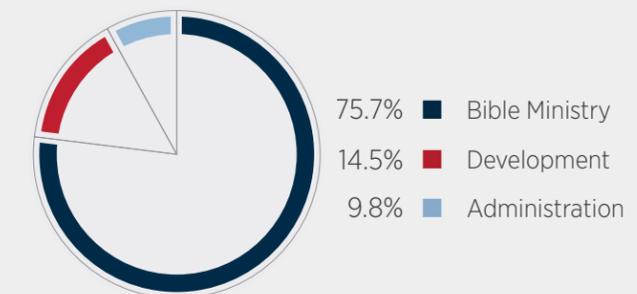
## GOD PROVIDED

\$83.6M



## WE INVESTED

\$94.8M



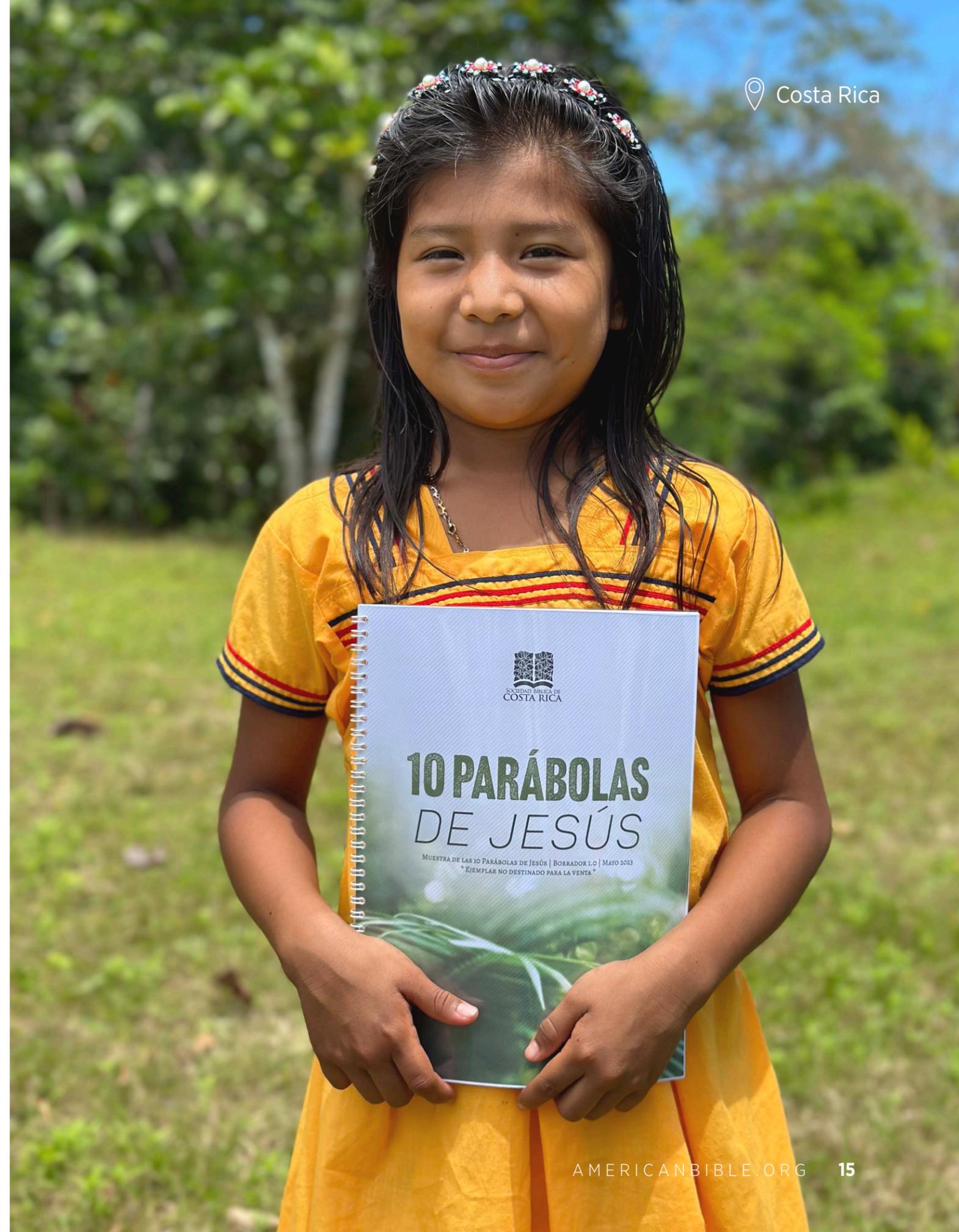
Note: Our audited financials will be made available in the Spring of 2024 at [abs.us/stewardship](https://abs.us/stewardship)

# OUR Board

**FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023**

Elaine Allen  
Mary Banks  
Katherine Barnhart  
Jeff Brown  
Joyce Dalrymple  
Tessie Güell Devore  
Deborah García-Gratacós  
Timothy Houseal  
Nicole Johansson  
Karen McDonald  
Theo Nicolakis  
Ashok Noah  
Helen Osman  
Mario Parades  
Georganne Perkins  
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David Viehman  
Kenneth Volpert  
David Wills

Costa Rica



MAKING 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.

