Thank you
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!

ROBERT L. BRIGGS
Interim President and CEO
American Bible Society
MINISTRY STORIES

TRANSLATION

TRAUMA HEALING

TRANSFORMING AMERICA

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

GENEROSITY REPORT
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.
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.’"
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

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!”

“We used to work by candlelight.
Now we have offices where we work.
We are very happy and grateful!”

— THE UMBUNDU TRANSLATION TEAM
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!”

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.
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.”

The Father’s Love

You helped a suffering man in Guatemala experience the love of our heavenly Father.
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.

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

– JOSÉ IN GUATEMALA
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!”

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.
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.
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

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.

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.

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

– VIETNAM WAR VETERAN BILL WARGO
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
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 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

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 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

THERE’S so much more to thank you for.
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 WILSON, CPA, MBA
Senior Vice President and CFO

MINISTRY RESOURCES

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Total Ministry Resources $105.6

MINISTRY INVESTMENT

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

OUR MISSION

B O A R D  O F  D I R E C T O R S
JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

Jeff Brown (Chairman) // Co-founder and Managing Partner, RoseRock Capital
Karen Louie (Vice Chair) // Executive Director and Audit Manager, JPMorgan Chase
Katherine Barnhart (Secretary) // Barnhart Crane & Rigging; Co-founder, GROVE Group
Mark Hanson (Treasurer) // Owner and President, Sea Foam Sales Company
Nick Athens // Co-founder and Co-owner, EcoVac Services
Mary Banks // Principal/Owner, WOW Consulting Group LLC
Thomas Bindley // Founder, Bindley Capital Corporation
Tessie DeVore // President, Bible Media Group; Vice President of Publishing, OneHope
Peter Handal // President and CEO, SmartSource Computer & Audio Visual Rentals
Yolanda Hegnji // Managing Partner, Stimulus Management Consulting
Edward Kobel // President and COO, DeBartolo Development
George Kovoor // Rector, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Darien, CT
Mark Matlock // President, WisdomWorks
Karen McDonald // Kemper Corporate Services and AVP Talent Management Professional
Theodore Nicolakis // Chief Information Officer, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Mario Paredes // CEO, Somos Community Care
Georganne Perkins // Retired Partner, Fisher Lynch Capital
Roy Peterson // President and CEO, American Bible Society
Kenneth Volpert // Retired Global Head of Fixed Income Indexing and Investments, Vanguard
Angela Williams // President and CEO, Easterseals, Inc.
David Wills // President Emeritus and National Relationship Manager, National Christian Foundation

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Andrew Hood // Vice President, Global Ministry
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Whitney T. Kuniholm // Senior Vice President, Advancement Ministry
Karina Lucero // Interim Director, Human Resources
Nicole Martin // Director, U.S. Ministry
Patrick Murdock // Vice President, Faith and Liberty Initiative
James Puchy // vice President, U.S. Ministry and Chief of Staff
Mark Wilson // Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
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)