

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

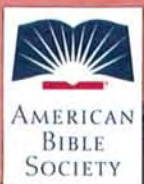
Record

Spring 2007

Renew Your
Faith Online

Women of UBS
Lead the Way

Gaza:
Weaving Hope



THE BIBLE IN CHINA
**Looking
to the Future**

A Season of Excellence

"The Scriptures say, 'God commanded light to shine in the dark.' Now God is shining in our hearts to let you know that his glory is seen in Jesus Christ." 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 (CEV)

I am happy to report that on March 11, the American Bible Society launched the second season of our Telly Award-winning weekly television series, *American Bible Society Presents: God's Word at Work*. The 26 new episodes follow a magazine-style format and feature everyday people inspired by the Bible to make a difference.

The episodes explore vibrant ministries such as Transporters for Christ, which gives truck drivers who crisscross the country a place to worship on the road. Another episode chronicles a cold day in December the week before Christmas, when a number of American Bible Society staff members and I had the unique privilege of joining Larry Jones, president of Feed The Children, in Harlem and distributing Bibles and food to thousands. Another looks at the humorous comic strip "Church Mice," developed by Pastor Karl Zorowski to help share God's message of hope.

In 2006, *American Bible Society Presents* was honored with two Telly Awards, for the episode "Debunking the Da Vinci Code" and the hour-long DVD "Challenging the Da Vinci Code." The Telly Awards were founded in 1978 to honor excellence in local, regional and cable TV commercials; nonbroadcast video and TV program categories were soon added. Today, the Telly is one of the most sought-after awards in the broadcast industry.

Please join us for another inspiring season on the air. Visit www.ABSPresents.com for your local time and channel.

In this issue of the *Record* I hope you will enjoy reading Melinda Trine's heartfelt cover story on her recent trip to China. Also inside is a first: short profiles of some of the phenomenal women we work with through the United Bible Societies.

I pray you have a blessed Easter!



PRESIDENT IRWIN holds the two Telly Awards given to the American Bible Society.



Record

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The mission of the 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. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of the Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

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The Results Are In

Last fall, the American Bible Society teamed up with the research and polling organization Zogby International to ask the following question: "What Is More Offensive on Television: Religion, Sex or Violence?"

Of the 9,095 people polled, 85 percent indicated a preference for more religious values and references to the Bible on television, and less sex and violence. Even among those respondents who do not attend church, 75 percent said that the Bible has had a positive effect on our society.

The poll was commissioned by the American Bible Society when it decided to test a theory held by President Paul Irwin: Most Americans believe in God and want entertainment options that advocate decency and biblical values. When the results were in, Dr. Irwin called a meeting to share the findings. The staff was encouraged to know that they were not voices crying out in the wilderness. "One of the blessings of being with the American Bible Society is that we have a broad mandate and a firm platform on which to voice concern for moral and decent behavior," Dr. Irwin said, "even though we do not take sides politically or denominationally." ■

COVER PHOTO BY DAG SMEMO, COURTESY OF UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES



We encourage you to send your letters and inquiries to: Editor, *American Bible Society Record*, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: 212.408.8754. E-mail: absrecord@americanbible.org. For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the *Record*, please call 866.895.4448.

Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

A Stitch in Time

>> Uplifting news comes from the seven Bible Society centers in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem: The work of the Bible Society there is welcome. In fact, there are more opportunities and invitations to minister to non-Christian groups than they can handle, says **Labib Madanat**,

executive director of the Palestinian Bible Society.

One of the most important ministries in Gaza is with non-Christian women, who join in fellowship with women from the Bible Society to **do embroidery and stitch work**

— and discuss their life situations openly. For many this is an emotional experience.

When asked if he is ever afraid to work in the volatile region, Mr. Madanat always answers, “You’re never afraid of those whom you love.”



A SAMPLE of “stitch work” ministry, from the Palestinian Bible Society

Works of Faith

>> The Bible message is taking hold in China, especially among the country’s many ethnic minorities.

“Every day I look to God to remove all that is evil within me so that I can help others,” says **Zhang**, an artist and member of the Black Miao ethnic group.

Before he became a Christian, Zhang often wondered why his life held so little hope. After losing his job in 2001, he earned money by shining shoes along a university



“READING THE BIBLE is like eating rice: You need it every day,” says Black Miao artist Zhang, who lives in Yunnan Province, China.

roadside. When one of his regular customers became a friend, he introduced Zhang to other friends who eventually invited him to St. John’s Church. He was baptized there in 2002, and the next year someone at the church taught him how to read the Bible.

Since then, there has been no turning back. Zhang’s Bible is well thumbed, with many verses highlighted. He has discovered that God’s Word is what he really needed to help him face each day. “I have suffered and have walked through difficult journeys that others have not gone through. **God’s Word gives me strength.**”

NATIONAL

The Word on the Airwaves

>> A live radio broadcast of **24 Hours With the Bible** received a tremendous outpouring of responses. The American Bible Society Hispanic/Latino Ministries staff, special guests and volunteers fielded more than 600 calls during the initial broadcasts on November 3 and 4.

The program, a dramatized version of the New Testament in Spanish, aired on **Radio Vision Christiana**’s six affiliate stations in America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and two weeks later on **Genesis Network**’s stations. Both networks also streamed the program from their Web sites to reach a global audience. The staff received responses from listeners in Alabama, Florida, New York, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

Following the broadcasts there were calls and letters from the blind, the elderly,



LEGENDARY LATIN CHRISTIAN SINGER and composer **Juan Romero** (left) with **Emilio A. Reyes**, vice president of Hispanic/Latino Ministries at the Bible Society

prison inmates, young people and others who would not normally read the Bible.

Karina Lucero, director of programs for the Bible Society’s Hispanic/Latino Division, said, “It’s not the number of responses we received from this program, but rather the individual testimonies we heard from listeners that have meant so much to us.”

Mountain Ministry

>> **Alfredo Fajardo**, the Quechua language coordinator for *Faith Comes By Hearing*®, spoke with great feeling at the Global Bible Summit held last November in



New York City. He is passionate about **his ministry to share Audio Scriptures**, which requires traveling on foot, sometimes for weeks at a time, across high-altitude mountains and over difficult roads in Peru. *Faith Comes By Hearing*® is the American Bible Society's leading Audio Scripture partner.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Bible Society has received two endowments to fund scholarships for the 2007–2008 school year.

The **William and Alice Brown** endowment will provide a \$3,000 scholarship for outstanding academic accomplishments and leadership potential in the fields of medicine and education.

The **Lt. Colonel Robert C. Goodridge USAF Reserve Retired, Ph.D., and Mrs. Rae M. Goodridge** endowment will provide four scholarships of \$3,000 each for residents of Hawaii who are full-time students in a postgraduate Protestant seminary or divinity program.

Deadline for applications is May 1, 2007.

For more information, e-mail scholarships@americanbible.org, or write to American Bible Society, Scripture Grants Dept., 1865 Broadway, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10023. ■

Bible Q&A

OUR LIBRARY SERVICES SUPERVISOR JACQUELYN SAPIIE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE.



What is the covenant name of God?

—SARAH O., SPOKANE

God's covenant name in the Old Testament is Yahweh, the English spelling of the Hebrew YHWH. Yahweh appears more than 6,000 times in the Old Testament, though most modern English translations substitute the word LORD. Yahweh is called God's covenant name because his name was first revealed in Exodus, the Book of the Covenant (a title conferred on the book in Exodus 24.7). According to the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Yahweh created and sustains the natural world, which includes humanity, and entered into covenants with Israel, his chosen people.

Yahweh appears more than 6,000 times in the Old Testament.

Into which Native American languages have Scriptures been translated?

—DAVID C., PHOENIX

Some portion of the Bible has been translated into approximately 40 languages within the borders of the United States and 30 languages within the borders of Canada. Many of these are now out of print. Currently, Scriptures in Inuktitut (Eastern Arctic), Mohawk and Navajo are available from the American Bible Society.

Today, the Bible Society is involved in the translation of the Bible in Lakota (Sioux), Choctaw, Yupik and Inupiat.

How large was the early Christian population in New Testament times — and how large were the house churches and synagogues that later became Christian churches?

—JOSEPH B., VIA E-MAIL

A reliable count of Christians during the first century is not available. Although the Romans conducted a census every 14 years during New Testament times, it was taken to establish property values.

The New Testament mentions two censuses (Luke 2.1-5; Acts 5.37). Some estimate that half a million Christians were among the 100 million people who lived within the boundaries of the Roman Empire — but this is probably overstated. According to Acts 2.41, 3,000 people were converted

in one day upon hearing Peter speak.

From Paul we learn that the churches in Antioch, Ephesus and Corinth were strong enough to weather controversy and division (1 Corinthians 3.3). But the majority of congregations were no doubt small. The Christian converts in the early period were from the middle and lower classes of society. For several centuries most churches were like this, just as Paul described them in 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 — “not many wise men, not many mighty, not many noble.” Yet, by the beginning of the fourth century, the number of Christians may have reached 10 or 12 million, about one-tenth of the total population of the Roman Empire. ■

◆ Readers are encouraged to submit their questions about the Bible to Jacquelyn Sapiie, library services supervisor at Bible House in New York City. Questions should be sent to absrecord@americanbible.org or via U.S. mail to American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.



FULL SPEED AHEAD
for a cartload of Bibles,
fresh from the Amity
Press in Nanjing



"The word that I speak — it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do."
ISAIAH 55:11 (GNT)

Prepare Ye the Way

A firsthand account of the Bible's joyful progress in China

BY MELINDA TRINE

Last year I was asked the following question: If you could travel anywhere in the world to see Bible Society ministry in action, where would you go?

I imagined myself meeting Konkomban tribesmen in Africa, and hearing stories of how they came to faith through Audio Scriptures. I thought of witnessing the smiles — yes, smiles — on the faces of children receiving the Word for the first time in Gaza. I wondered how it would feel to hand out Scriptures in India. The possibilities seemed staggering, since the American Bible Society pursues Bible work in some 200 countries and territories worldwide, due to its fellowship with the 144 national Bible Societies or offices of the United Bible Societies.

But I knew my deepest dream: China. Through nearly 13 years with the American Bible Society, I have wanted more than anything to see Bibles roll off the press at the Amity Printing Company in Nanjing and into the waiting hands of believers, happy to possess their very own copy. The Lord knew my heart and opened the doors to allow me to travel to China with Karmen Wynick, the director of relationship development, and a small



AT AMITY PRESS IN NANJING, a worker examines newly printed Scriptures. The paper itself is key to Bible production, and is largely funded by donors to the American Bible Society.

group of representatives from the Bible Societies of Canada, England, Korea, New Zealand and Norway.

TREASURE HOUSE

On our first full day in China, we had the privilege of visiting a distribution warehouse in Shanghai. Some of the Bibles printed at Amity Press in Nanjing are stored there before being shipped to remote locations. We saw Bibles stacked to the ceiling, thousands of them. For those of us who love God and his Word, this was like stepping into a gold mine.

In the U.S., many do not realize China even allows the Bible to enter its borders. It's true that during the Cultural Revolution, Bibles were banned and even burned. But in 1979, President Jimmy Carter had a historic meeting with Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping. President Carter asked the leader to grant freedom of religion, allow free access to the Bible, and permit the return of Western missionaries. After some consideration, Deng decided that the Chinese people would be granted the first two freedoms, but that the missionaries would not be allowed to come back. Since then, the Bible itself has become an ambassador of Christ in modern China: a powerful, life-changing missionary.

Even better than seeing this treasure stacked to the ceiling was helping to load it into a Gospel Wagon in Nanjing. This was the very first Bible van (one of nearly 50) provided through Opportunity 21, a special initiative funded by the worldwide UBS fellowship to boost the Bible cause at the turn of the 21st century. It was thrilling to witness the funds donated by Bible Society friends at work. On this particular day,



HAPPY VOICES ring out during a service in Kunming to welcome a delivery of Bibles.

the Bibles we helped load were headed to a train bound for Inner Mongolia, almost 1,000 miles away. I didn't know the Amity Bibles traveled that far.

HEART OF THE MISSION

Two days later, Karmen and I set foot in one of the crown jewels of Bible work in China: Amity Printing Company in Nanjing, where more than 40 million copies of the Bible and New Testament have been printed for distribution within China since 1987. We felt like kids in a candy store as we touched printed pages warm from the press and "plundered" trash bins for souvenir Bible pages that had been discarded. We snapped photos of everything: a flat of Bible covers, blue ribbons that would mark the place of a treasured Scripture passage — and of course, the workers who efficiently wrapped stacks of Bibles in protective paper for journeys across this vast nation.

Karmen and I zeroed in on the Bible paper — the precious Bible paper. We help provide the paper for Bible production at Amity. The subsidy for paper is key to Bible work in China, and it is supplied by the United Bible Societies fellowship, of which the American Bible Society is one of the primary funding agents, with God's blessing and faithful donor partners. I was living my dream, witnessing that paper rolling off the Amity presses in Nanjing, China. Although the treasured Word of God was printed in languages I'll probably never understand, these pages were potentially life-changing for one out of five people on earth.

UNDER A RED CROSS

I didn't expect to have the privilege of presenting a Bible to anyone in China. But on this trip we did just that, not once but myriad times, thanks to important preparations by Mr. Kua Wee Seng, coordinator of the UBS China Partnership. Wee Seng and his team knew that allowing us to participate in these distributions would mean so much to us and the Bible recipients alike.

We visited a poor rural village outside Hefei City in Anhui Province, a bus ride of several hours west from Nanjing. We rode over a bumpy country (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

A Door Opens

This fall, supporters of the American Bible Society will catch a glimpse of the Christian faith blossoming in all corners of modern China. It's part of an exciting Frontline Ministry trip led by Karmen Wynick, who took some of the photos below. Although the fall 2007 trip is fully booked, you can obtain information about future trips by calling 212.408.1313.



1) IN YUNNAN PROVINCE the local church is filled to capacity. But that didn't keep some curious youngsters from peeking in on the service.

2) A BUSINESSWOMAN sees the visitors with their cameras and springs into action, arranging vegetables and fluffing up her hens.

3) BLESSINGS ABOUND as a group of rural women wave good-bye to visitors from the Bible Societies, who had just delivered God's Word.



4) LOCAL FARMERS use water buffalo to plow their fields. Thanks to new distribution programs, the country's rural populations are closer to the Bible than ever before.

5) MELINDA TRINE (LEFT) AND KARMEN WYNICK visit a "treasure house" of Chinese Bibles, which are being delivered by Gospel Wagon all over the region.



road between fields being readied for winter by hardworking farmers leading water buffalo (some of which had scavenger birds on their heads). The road eventually led to a church, packed with people on a Monday afternoon, singing joyfully under a red cross. The cross is always red in China because the Chinese like the color red, and because red represents the blood of Christ. Each humble pew was essentially a two-by-four board atop an A-frame leg structure, the most modest seating I had ever seen in a church.

Something happened in that place that has never happened to me in more than four decades of church attendance. We had just presented Bibles to a group of women and they wanted their picture taken with me. I had been told previously that you don't hug

The Bible itself is an essential ambassador of Christ in modern China: a powerful, life-changing missionary.

was fine; in fact, it was one of the finest moments of my life. There I was, struck by the fact that laughter sounds the same in Mandarin as it does in English.

THE BIG FLOWERY MIAO

From Hefei we flew southwest to Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring, in Yunnan Province. There we encountered several Chinese ethnic minority groups: the Lisu, the Big Flowery Miao and the Black Yi. Bible trans-

local translators came out of their terraced farmlands just to meet with us. The drafts that they produced will be checked by biblical consultants from UBS, who are Greek and Hebrew experts, to ensure the accuracy and fidelity of the final product.

This particular translation center was halfway up the mountain. We continued our journey to visit a Miao church farther up the mountain. The "road" as it continued was a rutted, rocky path at best, without guardrails, signage or pavement. Due to this, we had to walk the last half mile.

What we found there is something I often relive: a rural church packed with people on a Thursday afternoon. Many of the women wore brightly colored costumes with their hair in thick coils atop their heads (later I learned that this hairstyle signifies that the woman is married). Every man had on a jacket. The congregation had dressed in their best to meet the first group of foreigners to ever visit their church. They sang with all their hearts under the red cross. Then they accepted individual copies of the Chinese Bible. Immediately, these Big Flowery Miao people sat down and pored over the pages of their new Bibles. They loved the Bibles given to them. They read them intently without prompting — a shy people with a heart for the Word.

One Big Flowery Miao senior grasped me tightly with her small hand stained by years of farming and looked me squarely in the eye. Tears started to fall, from her, from me. My late mother always said, "Tears are a language." With my new Big Flowery Miao friend, it was clear to me that tears were a language of the heart — speaking gratitude to the Lord for the gift of his Word and this wonderful visit to China. ■

Melinda Trine is the director of development for the American Bible Society.



MARRIED WOMEN of the Big Flowery Miao ethnic group joyfully pore over their new Bibles. A translation into the local dialect is now under way, with help from UBS translation experts.

the Chinese because they are not culturally accustomed to the gesture. But Karmen and I had a different experience time and again. These women hugged and tugged at me so exuberantly that we all tipped over a pew and landed on the cement floor. We laughed so hard that we could hardly stand up. The leaders of our group flew to my side and cried excitedly, "Melinda, are you okay?" I

lation is particularly important for ethnic minority groups, because we all want assurance that God speaks to us. We visited a center outside Kunming where translation work in Lisu and Miao takes place. Some of the Miao translators are preachers but most are farmers, so translation progress revolves around an agrarian culture and calendar. We were there during harvest season, and the

◆ For more information about how you can help in China, visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org.



As the church grows around the world, so does the need for Bibles.

Many believers around the world do not have Bibles. In places like South America, China, Russia and Africa, the need is staggering. You can help supply one Bible a month for as little as \$4, or two Bibles a month for \$8, etc., and extend your Christian witness to these regions and to other parts of the world.

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Passion and Grace

Three women light the way
for Bible work around the world.

Since the days of the Old Testament, women have played key roles in spreading the Bible message. Today, the many dynamic women who work in the United Bible Societies' (UBS) network follow in that honorable tradition. Here are profiles of three of these extraordinary women. Each of them is blessed with the ability to communicate effectively in complex and even dangerous situations, and also has a deep and confident passion for sharing God's love.

Tamar Karasu

Some people express surprise at finding Tamar Karasu at the head of the Bible Society in Turkey. Her Armenian patriarch suggested that he put her name forward for the vacancy. At the time, she was only 28. Her predecessor had spent 31 years in the position.

"My predecessors had a much more difficult time. The New Testament was forbidden in Turkey. Thanks to God, today we have more freedom to share the Good News," says Tamar, now 31.



Since her appointment as executive secretary, the Turkish Bible Society has printed the Turkish Concordance and the Turkish Children's Bible for the first time in that country, and the first Bible Dictionary is on the way. The Kurdish New Testament in the Kurmanji dialect

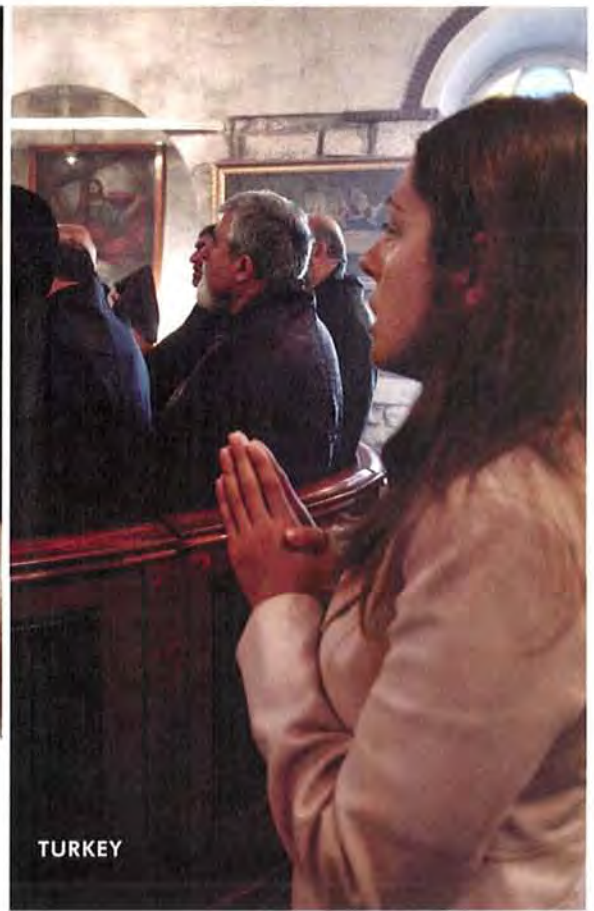
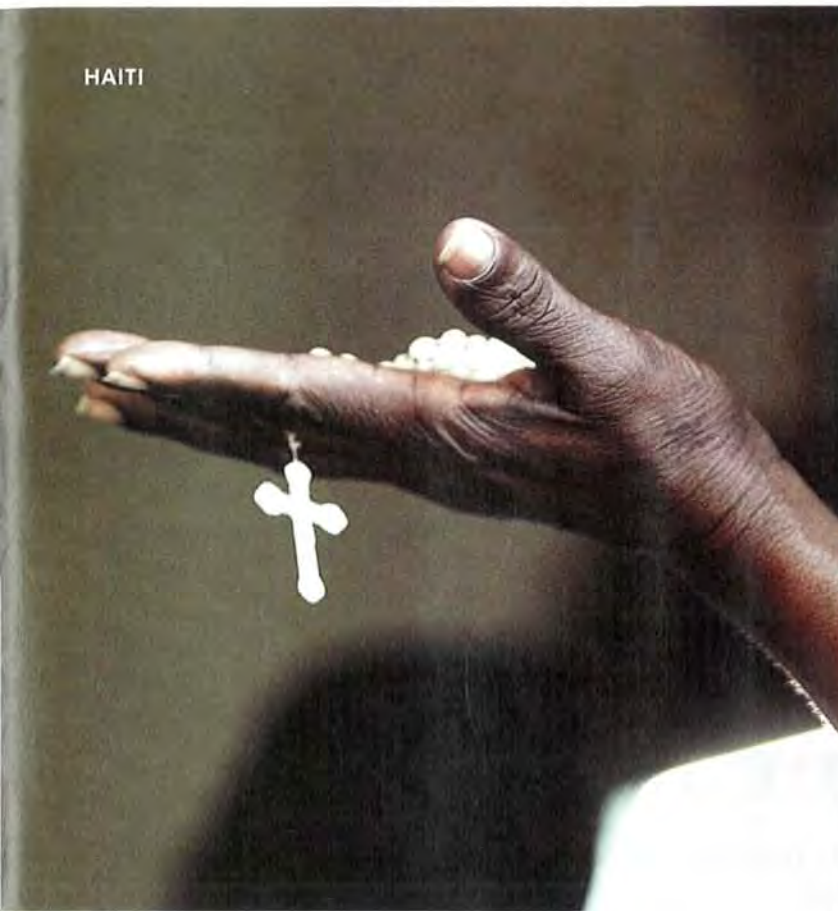
has been published and the Old Testament translation is ongoing. The scholarly revision of the Aramaic New Testament, based on the text translated in the fourth century, is also ready to be published.

"We are trying to stir up the gift of God in each church," says Tamar. "Most of the Turkish population have the wrong idea about the Christian faith. One of our aims is to break down their prejudices about Christianity."

Suhad Massad

In 2003, Suhad Salsa Massad received an offer to lead the Gaza branch of the Palestinian Bible Society, which meant undertaking Bible work

HAITI



TURKEY



Suhad Massad

in one of the toughest neighborhoods on the planet. After prayer, Suhad and her husband, Pastor Hanna Massad, said yes. "It is not easy to be a female leader in Gaza because of the highly conservative society. But working with the team makes it much different and easier," she says.

Suhad was born in Kuwait and raised there until the first Gulf War in 1990, when she moved with her family to Jordan. She completed her university education in that country, and began teaching biology and chemistry at private universities. In September of 2000, Suhad married Pastor Hanna Massad and moved to Gaza, where the two worked together in translation and ministry at the Baptist church.

Power outages and acts of sectarian violence are part of daily life in the Gaza Strip. During 2006, several death threats were made directly to the Bible shop run by the Society, but Suhad kept the team strong and impassioned for the ministry. Suhad acknowledges that, with God's grace, they have been able to continue to shine a light in this troubled region.

Magda Victor

In Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince, abducting and ransoming school-children by the busload is big business. So it is remarkable that Magda Victor, the general secretary for the Haitian Bible Society, is a study in

serenity. A "cradle of turmoil" is how she describes the location of the Bible Society's offices. "Every day we hear gunshots," she says.

Magda has family concerns of her own. Each day she slowly winds her way through the congested streets to retrieve her two teenage children from school. And yet, under her leadership, she and the Bible Society staff have managed to carry on a complex array of effective ministry programs, including the translation of a Creole Study Bible. She's gratified that Scripture distribution has nearly doubled since 1989, particularly in the schools.

But the central challenge in Haiti, according to Magda, is providing Bibles to people who can't afford to buy them. "We're sometimes discouraged by the poverty . . . a Bible in Creole sells for 175 gourdes. That's more than a day's wages for many Haitians."

Under her leadership, the Bible Society also organizes retreats for young people and helps with literacy and reading to the elderly.

"Through the Bible they find comfort and hope for the future. This is why we work so hard at the Bible Society. The difference is visible," she says. ■



Magda Victor

Reported by Simon Azazian, Mary Frank, Davyd Hepburn, Sylva Keshishian, Andrew Mathewson and David Singer.

◆ Visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org to learn how to become involved in our global mission.



Sharing Hope

A Bible community blossoms
on the Internet.

One of the exciting new ministries at the American Bible Society is **ShareYourStoryNow.org**, an online meeting place where everyday people can write about their own experiences with the Bible and read what others have written.

Year after year, Easter delivers us into a season of rebirth and of spring. In this spirit, we offer the following words of hope and renewal, taken from this online community.

"In 1985 I was saved [during] an evangelistic crusade in India. On this particular day, I actually planned to end my life by committing suicide. . . . At that time though, I heard a beautiful song come from a gospel crusade that was meeting at a nearby youth hostel.

I remember the words, 'Jesus, I come to your footstool (heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool), believing in your grace' [derived from Isaiah 66.1 (GNT)]. I went to the meeting to hear the preacher deliver a message that Jesus can change your life and you can be his child if you accept and believe that he gave himself for us on the cross. . . . I gave my life to Jesus that day, and he delivered me from all curses, diseases and gave me a new heart to believe and serve him." — GEORGE

"I started praying that I would be a good steward with the resources that I was blessed with. Every day, I reminded

myself that I need not fret about a purpose; God would use me and I would have to keep vigilant through regular prayer and Bible study. After about two months, an opportunity arose for me to volunteer in a church ministry, reading Bible stories to the elderly.

Through this ministry, I became passionate about writing Bible-inspired stories for children. Although it hasn't been easy, I held on to this verse, Jeremiah 29.11 (NIV): 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' It is my encouragement to all to hold on to the Lord, no matter what." — MEI

"It was only through the worst ordeal of my life that God made me realize that I was lost and in need of the Savior. My wife and I were on the verge of divorce, and I didn't even know it. For three days, I had read this powerful verse. Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees, 'But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you' [John 5.42 (KJV)]. After the third day of reading this text, at around 3 a.m., I realized that Jesus was saying these words to me. I did not have God's love in me and therefore couldn't love Him or anyone else. For those 2½ years I could not figure out why it was so hard for me to love others.

Now I know why. I gave my life to Jesus that morning, broken but forgiven." — DAVID ■

◆ Find out more about this online Bible community at ShareYourStoryNow.org.



Please Pray

"ALL OF YOU NATIONS, COME PRAISE THE LORD! LET EVERYONE PRAISE HIM. HIS LOVE FOR US IS WONDERFUL; HIS FAITHFULNESS NEVER ENDS. SHOUT PRAISES TO THE LORD!" *PSALM 117:1,2 (CEV)*

CUBA

Thank the Lord for his blessings this past year, especially for the Bibles and other resources we have been able to take to pastors, churches, seminaries and conventions around the country. Pray for the ongoing effect of the Scripture resources distributed to people affected by the hurricane in 2005 and for the Bible Science workshops we run with help from UBS translators.

ETHIOPIA

Give thanks for the increases in Scripture distribution, and for a steady addition of 2,000 supporters a year from the Orthodox Church. Also give thanks for the opportunities afforded to us by celebrations in Ethiopia this year for the millennium (on the Julian calendar observed in this country, it will be the year 2000). Pray for the 12 current translation projects and that our HIV/AIDS project will make a positive contribution to the nation's crisis.

HAITI

Praise God for his protection during the difficult times in our country. Ask for peace and protection for our staff. We are grateful for our new office building, and the possibilities that it affords. In partnership with *Faith Comes By Hearing*[®], we have now completed the recording of the dramatized New Testament in Haitian Creole; pray for its launch and reception. Please pray also for the translators who are working on a Study Bible in Haitian Creole.

SUDAN

Praise God that, following the signing of a peace agreement, we are starting to distribute the Scriptures in new areas. Pray especially for people in the south, where food is scarce. Remember the Darfur region in your prayers, where hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and millions more displaced during the years of conflict.

May 9 is a special day of prayer for the United Bible Societies; please pray with us for fruitful Bible work around the world. 📖

➡ Visit our Web site at www.americanbible.org to learn more about ministry around the globe.

measuring MINISTRY

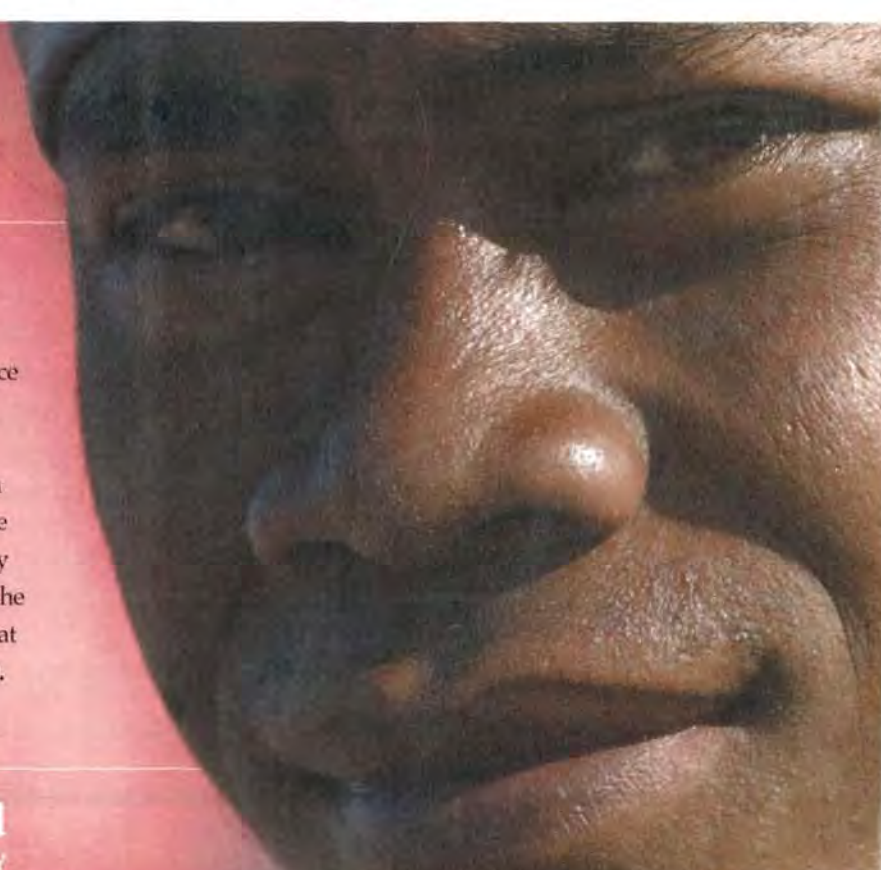
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MILDRED ECKERT
with the alabaster globe
honoring "Dr. and Mrs.
Eckert," given to her by
the American Bible Society

Eternal Love

BY LIZ SMITH

*"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God;
and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."
1 JOHN 4:7 (KJV)*

When Mildred Eckert was 20, she committed her life to the Lord after responding to an altar call at a Christian rally in New York City. During her long life of faith, Mildred has considered the Bible Society dear to her heart.

"There are people in the world who are truly hungry for the Word of God, and will cling to just one page, which is sometimes all they have," she says — a humbling thought for those of us who live in this country. She supports the Bible Society because she wants to do her part to ensure that everyone who wants God's Word close at hand can have their own copy.

Indeed, Mildred knows the power of a single Bible. She was just 12 when she met Charlie, her future husband, in church. One Easter, before they were married, Charlie gave Mildred a Bible. She used it throughout the 50 years, seven months and one day of their marriage. Although the Bible is tattered and worn, she continues to read it to this day.

The couple engraved the verse 1 John 4.7 into their wedding

bands, which begins "Beloved, let us love one another. . ." It told the story of a lifelong romance. Some years ago, when Charlie was diagnosed with Parkinson's, Mildred leaned on her favorite verses, Romans 8.28 and Jeremiah 29.11, for the strength to be his caretaker until the Lord took him home. The times he didn't recognize Mildred were difficult; however, one day Mildred asked, "Do you know who I am?" He looked at her and said, "Beloved." Charlie Eckert passed away five years ago.

Charlie Preuss, American Bible Society representative for the northeast, knew the Eckerts for many years, and their will includes the Bible Society. He also set up a charitable remainder trust so that Mildred receives a regular income sufficient for all of her needs. The Bible Society will eventually receive a portion of the principal of the trust.

Mildred holds monthly meetings at her home to pray for the persecuted church through the ministry of Open Doors International. She is also active in her church, Christian Women's Club and she volunteers at the local Rescue Mission. 📖

➔ You can obtain more information about planned giving programs sponsored by the American Bible Society by visiting us at www.americanbible.org or by calling the Planned Gift Programs Department at 1.800.820.6227.

Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS

“As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven.”
LUKE 24:51 (GNT)

APRIL 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND REJOICE IN HOPE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY LUKE 19:28-48	2 LUKE 20:1-19	3 LUKE 20:20-47	4 LUKE 22:1-38	5 MAUNDY THURSDAY LUKE 22:39-71	6 GOOD FRIDAY LUKE 23:1-49	7 LUKE 23:50-57
8 EASTER SUNDAY LUKE 24:1-12	9 LUKE 24:13-35	10 LUKE 24:36-53	11 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11	12 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-34	13 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58	14 PSALM 16
15 PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11	16 PHILIPPIANS 1:12-30	17 PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11	18 PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30	19 PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11	20 PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:1	21 PHILIPPIANS 4:2-23
22 1 PETER 1:1-12	23 1 PETER 1:13-25	24 1 PETER 2:1-10	25 1 PETER 2:11-25	26 1 PETER 3:8-22	27 1 PETER 4:1-19	28 1 PETER 5:1-14
29 REVELATION 21:1-27	30 REVELATION 22:1-21	IN 2007, WESTERN CHURCH CHRISTIANS AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS OBSERVE HOLY WEEK AND CELEBRATE EASTER ON THE SAME DAYS.				

MAY 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND EXPERIENCE NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ROMANS 8:1-17	2 ROMANS 8:18-30	3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PSALM 80	4 PSALM 84	5 PSALM 118
6 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11	7 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31	8 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-19	9 1 CORINTHIANS 14:20-40	10 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-18	11 GALATIANS 5:1-26	12 GALATIANS 6:1-18
13 JOHN 14:1-14	14 JOHN 14:15-31	15 JOHN 16:4B-15	16 JOHN 16:16-33	17 ASCENSION DAY ACTS 1:1-11	18 ACTS 1:12-26	19 ACTS 5:12-42
20 ACTS 11:1-18	21 ACTS 11:19-30	22 ACTS 12:1-19	23 ACTS 12:20-13:12	24 ACTS 13:13-52	25 EZEKIEL 37:1-14	26 JOEL 2:28-3:8
27 PENTECOST SUNDAY ACTS 2:1-13	28 ACTS 2:14-28	29 ACTS 2:29-47	30 JOHN 3:1-21	31 JOHN 3:22-35		

JUNE 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 GENESIS 6:1-22	2 GENESIS 7:1-24
3 GENESIS 8:1-19	4 GENESIS 8:20-9:17	5 GENESIS 12:1-20	6 GENESIS 13:1-18	7 GENESIS 15:1-21	8 GENESIS 16:1-16	9 GENESIS 17:1-27
10 GENESIS 18:1-15	11 GENESIS 18:16-33	12 GENESIS 21:1-21	13 GENESIS 22:1-19	14 GENESIS 28:1-22	15 GENESIS 35:1-15	16 GENESIS 48:1-22
17 GALATIANS 3:1-18	18 GALATIANS 3:19-4:7	19 GALATIANS 4:8-31	20 DEUTERONOMY 6:10-25	21 DEUTERONOMY 7:1-26	22 DEUTERONOMY 8:1-20	23 DEUTERONOMY 10:1-22
24 DEUTERONOMY 11:1-32	25 JOSHUA 1:1-18	26 JOSHUA 24:1-28	27 JUDGES 13:1-25	28 2 SAMUEL 7:1-17	29 2 SAMUEL 7:18-29	30 PSALM 89:1-37



| In Memoriam |

“O Lord, you have always been our home. Before you created the hills or brought the world into being, you were eternally God, and will be God forever.

You tell us to return to what we were; you change us back to dust. A thousand years to you are like one day; they are like yesterday, already gone, like a short hour in the night.” PSALM 90.1-4 (GNT)

MY SISTER, Louise Doris Bechlein
GIVEN BY THE TRUST OF HARRY E. BECHLEIN

MY AUNT, Helen S. Overlin
GIVEN BY FRANK A. JOHNSON

MY WIFE, Betty M. Berky
GIVEN BY THE BERKY BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION

Debra Hart Pence
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. STEVEN J. PARRISH

Joseph R. Harper
GIVEN BY TRACEY L. HARPER

Jackson Richart
GIVEN BY THE ANGLE FAMILY TRUST

Colonel and Mrs. Hans G. Jepson
(U.S. Army)
GIVEN BY THEIR SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

OUR AUNT AND UNCLE,
Frances and Howard Stang
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER MUDRAK

Gordon Kyle
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. PATRICK J. BLACK

MY HUSBAND,
L. Dowling Wheeler
GIVEN BY MRS. NETTIE B. WHEELER

MY HUSBAND, John D. McCready
GIVEN BY THE ESTATE OF HIS WIFE,
MARY WINSTON MARTIN MCCREADY

Leo M. Wiskoski, Master Sergeant, Retired
GIVEN BY MRS. CAROLYN F. VIALI

MY HUSBAND, Rev. Herbert E. Moyer
GIVEN BY THE ESTATE OF HIS WIFE, DORCAS M. MOYER

MY MOTHER, Mrs. Marguerite Wyatt
GIVEN BY MRS. JANET SCHILDROTH

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