

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

# Record

Summer 2006

## Scripture on the Front Lines Military Ministry in Wartime

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The Gullah Bible:  
Translating  
America's Past

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190 Years of  
Mission and Message  
(page 6)

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Tune In!  
The Bible on TV





# A Gift for the 56th Brigade

*"My deep desire and hope is that I shall never fail in my duty, but that at all times, and especially right now, I shall be full of courage, so that with my whole being I shall bring honor to Christ." PHILIPPIANS 1.20a (GNT)*

Over the course of e-mailing with Chaplain J. Craig Combs, serving in Iraq, one of our colleagues at Bibles.com enjoyed a special "in" on his experience. Annie LoCastro worked long-distance with Chaplain Combs to create 3,000 custom-edition Bibles commemorating his team's mission, which was called "Operation Iraqi Freedom III: Strike Hard." Annie was gripped by the passion Chaplain Combs had for his men and their objective, and it showed in the final product.

The photograph below shows a jubilant Chaplain Combs and Annie LoCastro meeting for the first time at a welcome-home ceremony for the 56th Brigade Combat team at Baylor University's Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco, Texas. There, amid a crowd



Chaplain Craig Combs and Annie LoCastro

of thousands that included the governor of Texas, Chaplain Combs presented the Bibles to the men.

The customized Bible has a special cover, greetings from their chaplains, Bible reading guides, special prayers for those in the military and the Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces.

In this issue of the *American Bible Society Record*, you can read more about our historic commitment to provide the Word of God to men and women in combat, in the timeline, on page 6, and in the cover story about Navy Chaplain Brian Waite.

Thank you for your continued support of our vital mission together.

*Paul G. Irwin*



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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

SUMMER 2006, VOLUME 151, NUMBER 2

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## Letters From Our Readers

### To our friends at the American Bible Society,

The Bible became my life and my anchor. God made it possible for me to study and teach during all the years since God saved me in 1918, when I was nine years old.

God sent my husband and me to northern California in 1934. After some more years of training, [he] sent us to the Redwood Parish and thence to the Hoopa Indian Reservation. Many different tribes were located here together with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and many others.

It was here that we became associated with the American Bible Society and you made it possible for us to give out hundreds of Bibles, because you gave us a special rate and we could do so. . . .

It was fall of one year and we were almost out of Bibles, so I made out a big order to the American Bible Society and told my husband we needed a check for \$160. He said, "We can't send it until we have the money — just hold it."

I had not left my desk before a knock came on the front door, and a man, a member of the Hoopa Mission Church, came in and said, "I just sold some cattle and here is my tithe." It was the exact amount that we needed to pay the American Bible Society.

I am still living on the Hoopa Indian Reservation.

— From a reader in California

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY  
PPC E.L. COLE



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. Note: For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the *Record*, please call 212.408.1200. [www.AmericanBible.org](http://www.AmericanBible.org)



# Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

## INTERNATIONAL

### A Global Reach

>> The funeral of **Pope John II** and the inaugural mass of his successor, **Pope Benedict XVI**, last April turned the eyes of the world toward the Eternal City. The general secretary of the Bible Society in Italy, **Dr. Valdo Bertalot**, occupied privileged positions at both of these events — a sign of the healthy standing of the Bible Society in Italy with the Vatican.

In 1968, soon after the Catholic Church presented the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, **better known as Dei Verbum**, the United Bible Societies welcomed a new era of collaboration. They published *Guiding Principles for Interconfessional Cooperation in Translating the Bible*, which led to interconfessional translations and Bible Societies in Italy, Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East — giving God's Word the widest possible reach through today's media and in today's language.

### Refugee Highway

>> When fleeing Africans make the arduous journey to Europe, what they need more than anything else is positive human contact, according to **Dr. Graham Hutt**, a consultant for the United Bible Societies (UBS).

Many of them spend months on foot or in overcrowded trucks, traveling across thousands of miles of desert, only to find themselves in legal limbo when they arrive. An aid worker cited the example of **Sahro**, a 28-year-old migrant from Somalia now living in Rome, a hospitable city where thousands of people wait to process their applications for asylum. Sahro's



**SAHRO** is a migrant from Somalia who now lives in Rome with her sick child.

daughter was born prematurely on the journey, and the only "permanent" shelter Sahro has had for the past four years is a chair in the hospital next to her daughter's bed. Missions, churches and UBS are ministering to migrants like Sahro, offering help and hope through Scriptures in appropriate languages.

## NATIONAL

### Teaching *Lectio Divina*

>> The ancient practice of slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures, called *Lectio Divina* in Latin, enables the Word to become a means of union with God. This ancient practice has been kept alive in the Christian monastic tradition.

Now, the American Bible Society has created a training manual called *Encuentro con la Biblia* (Encounter with the Bible) in Spanish and English to help implement the *Lectio Divina* method in Catholic dioceses, especially those with Latino/Hispanic populations.

**Melvin Rivera**, former director of Latino ministries at the Bible Society, says, "Pope Benedict XVI has recommended that Catholics place a fresh emphasis on the regular reading of the Sacred Scriptures, accompanied by prayer. This enables an intimate dialogue in which, through reading, we hear God speak, and through prayer, we respond with a trusting openness of heart. If this practice is effectively encouraged, I am convinced that it will produce a spiritual springtime in the church."

So far, some 25 parishes in California, Florida, New York, Oklahoma and Texas have participated in one-week introductory sessions to the *Lectio Divina* approach to Bible study.

### A Bible in Every Home

>> Ever since its founding in 1976, **Habitat for Humanity** has given a Bible along with house keys to its new homeowners in the United States. Now, thanks to a renewed partnership with the American Bible Society, all Bibles that

## AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY PRESENTS — NEW TV SERIES

In April, the American Bible Society introduced *American Bible Society Presents*, a half-hour television program produced by Associated Television International and hosted by Paul G. Irwin, president of the Bible Society. "Debunking The Da Vinci Code" kicked off the series and subsequent episodes explore Bible engagement and translation work with peoples around the world. Consult [www.abspresents.com](http://www.abspresents.com) for local listings on Faith TV, Urban America TV, UPN and the WB.





are provided to Habitat families will be donated free of charge.

Both organizations are eager to renew and expand the collaboration. "It is great for Habitat to be partnering once again with the American Bible Society," says **Rick Beech**, director of church relations at Habitat International. "Presenting a Bible at a house dedication is a holy moment, and it sends an important message that Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry. In donating each Bible, the American Bible Society becomes an integral ministry partner." ■

## A Biblical Journey

Are you a "frontline" person? The **American Bible Society** invites you to join us on a life-changing **Frontline Ministry Experience to South America**, to see firsthand the work of Bible Society missions there. September 2 through 16. For more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact [SpecialEvents@AmericanBible.org](mailto:SpecialEvents@AmericanBible.org) or call 212.408.1313.

Machu Picchu, Peru



# Bible Q&A

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



## What is the dollar equivalent of one shekel in the Bible?

Before the use of coins silver and gold were weighed on scales. Silver became the most common medium of exchange in early Old Testament times. The different values of money used in the Bible — the talent, shekel, mina and gerah — refer to units of weight.

In Old Testament times, a shekel was approximately 14.5 grams (0.5 ounces) of silver. In the days of the New Testament, it was a common silver coin of the same weight.

Coins were invented at about 600 B.C. and were first used in the Persian Empire. The daric, or "dram," named for the Persian King Darius I, was known to the Jews in exile (Ezra 2.69; 8.27 and Nehemiah 7.70-71, *KJV*).

It is impossible to estimate in modern terms the value of these ancient coins. The *King James* translators used terms such as "farthing" to provide readers with a familiar reference for the small value of the widow's mite in the above passages. The term "penny" (Mark 12.41, *GNT*) was used for the silver denarius, which represented a day's wages in New Testament times. The mite was worth about a tenth of a cent (Mark 12.42, *NIV*). With the passage of time these terms have lost their point of reference.

## In John 4, Jesus traveled from Judea to Galilee by way of Samaria. How far is it and how long did it take?

The journey from Jerusalem in Judea to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee via Samaria is 70 miles. Travel on land was similar in Old and New Testament times. Officials with permits and couriers used the courier system: horses,

carriages and resting places with fresh horses. But most travelers went on foot.

A normal distance traveled by foot in one day would be 16 Roman miles. A Roman mile equaled 1,000 double steps, and a double step

was equivalent to two strides by a Roman soldier (approximately 2.4 feet).

## Before the use of coins silver and gold were weighed on scales.

## How many Gutenberg Bibles were printed?

The Gutenberg Bibles were printed from 1455 to 1456 and each was bound in two volumes. They are large books, measuring 15½ x 11½ inches. It is thought that 150 copies were printed on paper and about 35 on parchment (vellum). About 36 paper and 12 parchment copies of the original Gutenberg Bible survive in rare-book libraries in cities as diverse as Mainz, Germany; Tokyo; and New York and Austin here in the United States. ■

>> Readers are encouraged to submit their questions about the Bible to Jacquelyn Sapiie, library services supervisor at Bible House in New York. Questions should be sent to [absrecord@AmericanBible.org](mailto:absrecord@AmericanBible.org) or via U.S. mail to American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

# Many Years, One Message

**T**his year, the American Bible Society celebrates 190 years of serving a single mission: providing Scriptures in formats and languages so that all people may experience the Bible's life-changing message. As the countdown to our bicentennial begins, we take a look back at some memorable dates in Bible Society history.



The American Bible Society is founded in New York City. **Elias Boudinot**, the former president of the Continental Congress and director of the U.S. Mint, is elected its first president. In its first full year of operation, the Society distributes 17,594 Bibles.

1816

1818

*"The Bible is the repository of the moral and religious teachings of our Western tradition. It is a book not for a day or a week but for eternity."*

— U.S. PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT,  
LETTER TO THE BIBLE SOCIETY (1942)

**Bible Sunday** is first celebrated in conjunction with the **Panama-Pacific Exposition**. It continues to the present day under Bible Society sponsorship.

The Bible Society introduces a finger-operated phonograph — a **"Finger Fono"** — to bring the Scriptures to those who don't read.



1915

1935

1957

1962



**Helen Keller** speaks at the Bible Society Centennial Year of Service to the Blind: "I cannot recall a further-reaching benefit to the blind, unless it be education itself." The American Bible Society has Helen Keller's 13-volume Braille Bible in its collections.

The **Bible-a-Month Club**® begins. Thirty-five staff members agree to contribute \$2 each per month to support Bible distribution in a selected country of the world, a program that continues today.



2000

**The Learning Bible** in the Contemporary English Version is published.

2001

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, **the Bible Society distributes more than 1 million free Scriptures** and computer downloads.

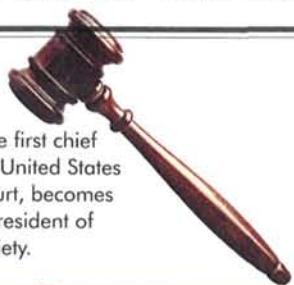




# A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



**John Jay**, the first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, becomes the second president of the Bible Society.



A Bible Society gift of \$1,000 to the New England Institution for the Blind results in **the first Scriptures for the visually impaired**.

Mark Twain tours **Bible House on Astor Place** during a visit to New York City and writes, "New York has no institution she has more reason to be proud of than this colossal Bible Society."

1821

1833

1835

1861-1865

1867

The Bible Society commits \$3,000 to print and distribute **Scriptures in China**.

The Bible Society provides **Scriptures to both the North and South** during the Civil War. Although based in the North, it passes an estimated 300,000 Scriptures through battle lines under the flags of truce.



The Bible Society is asked to provide a large pulpit Bible for reciting verses nightly in **The King and I** revival on Broadway.

The Bible Society distributes Scripture resources at the **Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta**, and 5,000 Scriptures to African-American and interracial churches destroyed by fire bombings.

1966

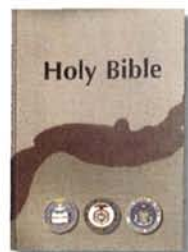
1981

1987

1996

Just in time for its 150th anniversary, the Bible Society publishes the New Testament in **Today's English Version**, a translation written in common English language, and **Dios Llega al Hombre**, an easy-to-read translation designed to reach the Spanish-speaking world.

This year marks the establishment of the **Amity Printing Company in Nanjing**, a joint venture between the Amity Foundation — an organization founded by Chinese Christians — and United Bible Societies. In 1988, half a million Bibles were printed.



In cooperation with Bible Societies in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and the United Bible Societies, the American Bible Society provides Bible resources to **victims of the tsunami disaster of 2004**. At home, **Hurricane Katrina** survivors receive nearly 1 million Bibles and Scripture Portions.

2003

2005

2006

The Bible Society produces a **pocket-size military Bible**, developed jointly with the aid of Catholic and Protestant chaplains from all branches of the armed forces.

American Bible Society celebrates **190 years of fulfilling its mission**.



**GULLAH PRIDE**  
shows its colors  
during Gullah  
Heritage Days on  
St. Helena Island,  
South Carolina.







# Make a Joyful Noise

A new Bible translation revives a language as rich as America.

BY JASON ANTHONY

Gullah Heritage Days are a feast for the senses. On the second weekend of every November, visitors to St. Helena Island, just off the coast of South Carolina, come home to the smells of savory red rice and deviled crabs, and the sound of gospel singing. But in 2005 the festival had something more to offer than food and high spirits — something for the heart.

Pride of place was given to the dedication of *De Nyew Testament*, a translation of the New Testament into Gullah, a labor of love 26 years in the making. Emory Campbell, who worked on the translation team, remembers standing on the stage and listening to John's Gospel sounding from the festival loudspeakers last November, to loud choruses of "Amen" from the crowd. That moment, he says, "brought out the meaning of the Bible as well as the meaning of our ancestry."

## A HIDDEN TREASURE

Gullah culture is as rich as America. It is the product of Africans from many nations who were brought to the isolated coastal area to work as slaves on the indigo, cotton and rice plantations. The displaced people created the Gullah (or "Geechee") language as a way to communicate with one another, and isolated geography has preserved pieces of their African culture through the centuries.

Penn Center is an organization working to preserve that culture. Deloris Pringle, the immediate past chair of its board of trustees, calls Gullah a "hidden treasure" for African Americans, a link to a forgotten past. "There is something about the language of your foreparents handed down that is central to knowing who you are" — something, she says, African Americans have not had.

"Our hope is that this New Testament will help keep the Gullah language and culture living and active among future generations," says Dr. Steve Berneking, senior translations officer for the American Bible Society. "It cuts across the years and shows the rich and deep history of who these people are." (CONTINUED PAGE 10)



Gullah is one of seven Bible translation projects in North America in which the Bible Society is involved, according to Dr. Berneking. It is the mission of the Bible Society to provide Scriptures for language groups that want to read God's Word in their heart language. In cooperation with the United Bible Societies, the American Bible Society provided accuracy checking for *De Nyew Testament* and the printing and distribution of the final Scriptures, and funding to keep the project alive.

It's hard to imagine a project more warmly welcomed. Gullah culture is deeply Christian — the songs "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" and "Kumbayah" ("Come by Here") are Gullah through and through — but locals had never before been able to read God's Word in their own language.

## THE WORD COMES HOME

Pat and Claude Sharpe came to the region in 1979, under the sponsorship of the Wycliffe Bible Translators. In finding a team of translators, the Sharpes learned that half their battle lay in convincing islanders there was something



**THE LOWCOUNTRY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**, with its difficult terrain, allowed the Gullah culture and language to remain isolated through many centuries.

stepped in to shepherd the project to completion. One of the memorable discussions for David Frank concerned Matthew 5.3, when the team worked on the phrase "blessed are the poor in spirit," which has no Gullah equivalent. They decided on "Dey bless fa true, dem people wa ain hab no hope een deysel, cause God da rule oba um." Literally, "they are truly blessed, those people who have no hope in themselves, because God is ruling over them."

As the translation wrapped up, the Bible Society published and helped to distribute the Bible. To help get the word out, Dr. Frank gave a class on Gullah Bible translation through Penn Center. One of the star students was Mary Ravenell, daughter of a Pentecostal bishop, who had learned Gullah at her grandmother's knee.

Ms. Ravenell was asked to appear on camera reading the beatitudes in Gullah, and became one of the

spokespeople for the Gullah Bible. She now gives presentations to churches, schools and retirement homes, and her goal is to personally present *De Nyew Testament* to President Bush.

The Gullah Bible has attracted international media attention, and later this year academic seminars and gatherings for ministers will study it closely. For Ms. Ravenell, it's about time. "This Bible inspires me to promote fellowship wherever I go — to be a bridge for people of all ages," she says with a smile in her voice. "God's will is really happening." ■



**HOT OFF THE PRESS** copies of *De Nyew Testament* were the big draw at the Gullah Heritage Days celebration.

genuinely worth saving in Gullah — which local schools had long tried to teach children to abandon as "broken English."

Mr. Campbell remembers being skeptical at first, but Pat Sharpe was persistent. "She patiently showed me the history of Gullah, how it came through the Caribbean, and before that, from Africa," says Mr. Campbell. After about "two years of denial," Mr. Campbell joined the project after he became the executive director of Penn Center.

Pat Sharpe passed away in 2002, and Wycliffe translation consultants David and Lynn Frank

## TRANSLATING THE GOSPEL INTO GULLAH

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

JOHN 1.1 (KJV)

**Fo God mek de wol, de Wod been dey. De Wod been dey wid God, and de Wod been God.**

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

MARK 8.36 (KJV)

**De poson wa git ebryting een de whole wol an den dead an gone ta hell, e done loss de true life, ainty? E ain git nottin!**

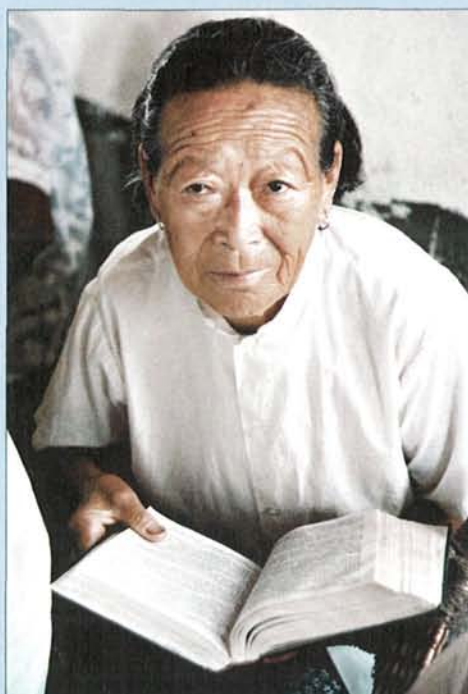
Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

MARK 10.14 (KJV)

**Onna mus leh de chullun come ta me. Mus dohn stop um, cause people like dem chullun yah gwine be wid God wen e da rule.**

>> To obtain your own copy of the Gullah Bible, visit [www.Bibles.com/Gullah.aspx](http://www.Bibles.com/Gullah.aspx).





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**HELPING SOLDIERS**  
find peace in the chaos  
of war is one of the many  
challenges of military  
chaplaincy.





*"Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, 'You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust.'"*

PSALM 91.1-2 (GNT)

# The Call of God and Country

Carrying the gospel to the front lines

BY DAVID SINGER

Readers may remember "Immersed in the River of Life: A Wartime Victory," from the Fall/Winter 2005 issue. This article gives a bigger picture of Chaplain Brian Waite's ministry.

In the military, they call a soldier's first experience of combat his "baptism under fire" — where the challenge is to function effectively in a new and threatening environment. For Chaplain Brian Waite, this experience of a baptism under fire became a literal reality in the sands of Iraq.

The Rev. Waite stands a slender six-foot-seven, with a ready and reassuring smile. He confesses that he grew up a "typical un-churched cultural Christian" until his "surrogate father," a man named Sam Castle, was stricken with cancer. The man told the wide-eyed boy that he needed to give Jesus a try. His first taste of faith, taken on his 16th birthday in 1981, set him off on a life-shaping adventure.

The road to Iraq was one of extensive preparation: a B.A. in biblical studies, an M.Div. in biblical languages, an M.B.A. in



**CHAPLAIN BRIAN WAITE** was deployed with a combat infantry troop to Iraq.

international relations, a D.Min. in religious studies, and a Ph.D. in historical theology. While at The Criswell College, he developed an interest in the military, and at Southwestern Baptist Seminary he enrolled as a candidate for the Navy chaplaincy.

His commission as a Navy chaplain in 1992 was short-lived; after four years he left active duty to pastor a 3,600-member congregation in Oklahoma City. It was also during this sabbatical from military service that he learned his mother was terminally ill.

Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Rev. Waite felt a call to return to the Navy. His assignment to the 2D Marine Division at Camp Lejeune,

N.C., meant a move for his wife, Kathy, and their two teenage boys, Nicholas and Michael. Once at Camp Lejeune, he was assigned to a reconnaissance battalion. The chaplain felt seasoned by his previous military and pastoral experiences. His maturity was noticed and he was soon named deputy division chaplain.

He recalls the many late nights and early mornings when he and the division chaplain visited staging areas where soldiers and their families



gathered, waiting for the buses that would take wives and husbands, mothers and fathers, off to war. He knew that some of the goodbyes would be for a lifetime.

Then, with only 48 hours' notice, Rev. Waite's turn came. When two chaplains already at sea and en route to the Middle East lost the confidence of their commanding officers, they were fired. Rev. Waite was assigned to help fill the vacant positions.

## LEAVING FOR IRAQ

The memories of pain and pandemonium are still vivid. "Leaving [my] wife and children on such short notice, making sure my will was in place, going over details of what to do should I die, saying goodbye, taking photos knowing this was it — there's no way to prepare for that," he says.

As Rev. Waite said his goodbyes to his family in the parking lot, two busloads of Marines watched. How would this man of faith handle himself? His baptism under fire had begun.

He was the last one to board the bus and he could feel the tension. As he stood in the aisle, this man of the cloth quipped, "I hope this is the bus to Rome." His humor broke the tension. They were off to Kuwait via Frankfurt.

During the ensuing weeks of desert training, the chaplain noticed a different kind of connection with "his boys" — an intimacy of compassion he had not felt in his earlier stint as a chaplain. Says Rev. Waite, "I saw the face of my two sons in each one of these soldiers."

**THE RIVER OF LIFE** In Iraq, Rev. Waite baptizes one of the many Marines who came to Christ during a harrowing tour of duty.

He spent his time connecting with them, discussing the moral issues of combat, giving out Bibles provided by the American Bible Society. He found that the worship services he held were better attended than ever. He felt empowered by his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Brent Dunahoe, to be a chaplain to the troops and to deal with real issues. When he and the colonel first met, the colonel told Rev. Waite, "Take care of my boys." His response was, "They're mine as well, sir."

When the day came to go to war, Lt. Col. Dunahoe gathered the battalion and gave a charge to his troops, then yelled, "Padre up!" which was Waite's cue to lead them in prayer. It was a solemn moment — "Ash Wednesday," recalls the chaplain. Some Marines went down on one knee. Some crossed themselves. They all bowed their heads. A multitude of amens followed.

They crossed the Line of Departure (LOD) into Iraq on March 19, 2003. "We were nonmechanized combat infantry," says Rev. Waite. "Ground-pounders, grunts.

What you can't carry, you don't take." With the logistics of supply always a challenge, having enough Bibles was a concern. So, before departure, he dumped all the personal gear from his pack and stuffed it with small military Bibles from the Bible Society. Equipped with those and a Communion kit clipped to his belt, he headed into battle.

## BIBLES ON THE FRONT LINE

During this time, he says, "I gave out so many Bibles I couldn't even hold on to my personal copy. It was humbling to discover how much of the Word I'd ingrained into my heart." He held services every night: simple Bible studies, sharing the Word, praying, serving Communion. "Guys would come out of the woodwork just to observe."

They took their first casualties in the suburbs of An Nasiriyah, a city about two-thirds of the way to Baghdad from the LOD.

"It was intense. Soldiers killed or wounded in action, small-arms fire, mortars, the world falling down around you. During periods of



## SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS



includes a small camouflage New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs from the Bible Society, an *Our Daily Bread*

The American Bible Society has partnered with Military Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ to stand with our service men and women, providing them with a Military Ministry Rapid Deployment Kit (RDK). Each kit

devotional guide and a copy of "Would You Like to Know God Personally?" packaged in a waterproof bag made to fit into a uniform pocket.

Military Ministry has distributed more than 1 million RDKs, and requests for more from chaplains and commanders average about 25,000 per month.

One military chaplain comments, "I have been an active chaplain for 14 years and I know from the bottom of my heart [that] deployment kit is the best religious resource out there."





**SUPPLYING BIBLES** for the troops is a central part of ministry to the military, both in Iraq and back home in Norfolk, Va.

lull in the fighting, I'd pass out Bibles. Marines would read the Word of God, devour it. At night, kids would come, wake me to read the Bible. We'd pray together. I was conducting six to 18 services a week. According to Lt. Col. Dunahoe, 'Every day is Sunday when you're in a fight.' I found I had a surreal opportunity: four months of preaching and teaching when guys are most open."

The payoff came a few days before Easter.

I gave out so many Bibles I couldn't even hold on to my personal copy. It was humbling to discover how much of the Word I'd ingrained into my heart.

>> REV. BRIAN WAITE, NAVY CHAPLAIN

"Three or four Marines approached me and asked to be baptized," says the veteran chaplain. "I told them, first they needed to fully understand what being baptized meant, how it was an act of faith."

He set up baptism classes for the coming week and a half, and suggested that the soldiers invite others. After the classes, if they still wanted to, he'd make the complicated security arrangements. For the first class, 77 Marines showed up. By the end, an impressive 60 remained.

On Easter Sunday, 44 Marines were baptized in the Tigris River — which in Arabic means

"river of life." Another 16 soldiers were baptized over the next two days.

A combat correspondent who photographed the Easter baptism asked, much like the Ethiopian in the book of Acts, if Rev. Waite could explain what it all meant.

"I shared with him from an American Bible Society Bible about this sacred rite," says Rev. Waite. "The photographer responded, 'I'd like to be a follower of Jesus.' We baptized him that day."

"It was the power of the Word of God that brought them; it has a power unto itself," he says. ■

>> Go to [www.AmericanBible.org/chaplain](http://www.AmericanBible.org/chaplain) for a giving opportunity.

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# Please Pray

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.  
WITH THANKFUL HEARTS OFFER UP YOUR PRAYERS AND REQUESTS TO GOD."  
PHILIPPIANS 4.6 (CEV)



North America



## CANADA

**Praise the Lord**  
for all the 100  
years (1906–

2006) of ministry in which the Canadian Bible Society (CBS) has been able to translate, publish, distribute and encourage the use of Scriptures in Canada and around the world. Please pray for the deepening of the relationships the CBS has with partners over the next 100 years, and remember especially their work in Bermuda.



## MEXICO

**Thank God** for  
recent achieve-  
ments, including

free distributions of Scriptures, indigenous language

translations and for ongoing indigenous translation projects. Please ask God to help us bring his Word to the needy and achieve our mission objectives. In July, with the presidential elections, please pray for peace. In August, pray for "Bible Month."



## UNITED STATES

**Give thanks**  
for new

programs designed to help people experience the life-changing message of God's Word, particularly urban youth through the Elementz of Life® program, which presents Scripture through magazines, the Internet and music.



**Pray** for the outreach to people in prison and to those learning to read. In our media-saturated culture, pray that God will help us create new ways to reach people through effective partnerships.

**Praise God** for the success of *24 Hours with the Bible*, an audio program that dramatizes the New Testament in Spanish. During recent broadcasts, from New Jersey

to the Florida Keys, more than 700 people testified on air to the power of God's Word.

**Please pray** for the funding of Native American translations of the Bible. The current projects of the American Bible Society are for Choctaw, Inupiaq, Lakota, and Central Yup'ik. Please also pray for the translation of the Bible into American Sign Language. ■



>> Visit our Web site at [www.AmericanBible.org](http://www.AmericanBible.org) to learn more about ministry around the globe.



# Treasures From the Heart

BY LIZ SMITH

*Loving Lord, may I begin where I am and perform my assigned task, never failing to bear witness to Him whose I am. Let my spirit blaze with Your praise.*

— Bertel Milas Sparks

**M**artha Evans Sparks dedicates her fourth book to “the memory of Bertel Milas Sparks, lawyer, teacher, Christian gentleman, and my husband.” *Strength for Today: Daily Encouragement Through Life’s Transitions* (2005, Wesleyan Publishing House) is her third book since “Bert” passed away in 1994. They were all inspired by the intensive care she was called to give during the five years before he went home to the Lord. She has been dubbed “America’s voice of the caregiver,” and though the books were born of the personal journey Martha made, they minister to other caregivers who find themselves in times of challenge and transition.

A treasury from Bert’s heart inspired Martha to begin writing. Little did she know that during the 42 years of their marriage, Bert had been writing short prayers, neatly typed on 3-by-5-inch cards. Upon his passing, Martha discovered two long steel file drawers containing a total of 1,000 prayers. In *Strength for Today*, each of Martha’s Scripture-based devotions is punctuated by one of Bert’s straightforward prayers.

Martha and her publisher agree that this project has been “a God thing.” She says, “Arguably, loss is the most common of human experiences. We lose our parents, our

spouse, our health . . . and we have to go on.”

Where does the strength to face this come from? Martha says, “Bert and I believed deeply in the Bible — that ‘all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching’ (2 Timothy 3.16, *NIV*). They taught Bible studies at Sunday school for many years. Martha says she “never gets through being amazed how God is interested in the details of our lives.” Proof of

the inspiration of the Bible, she says, is in the way Scripture continues to grow and deepen in us over time — that we can never come to the end of its riches.

It makes sense that Martha would consider leaving her estate to the American Bible Society. She feels that the mission of the American Bible Society is doctrinally sound and embraces the most important tenets of the Christian faith — and that her bequest is a rare opportunity to uphold and support the core beliefs and values that she and Bert shared for so many years. ■



MARTHA EVANS SPARKS

>>You can obtain more information about planned giving programs sponsored by the American Bible Society by visiting us at [www.AmericanBible.org](http://www.AmericanBible.org) or calling the Planned Gift Programs Department at 1.800.820.6227.



# Quiet Time

OUR DAY-BY-DAY OFFERING OF BIBLE READINGS

"The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory that he received as the Father's only Son."  
JOHN 1.14 (GNT)

## JULY 2006 · BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND TELL OF GOD'S KINDNESS AND MERCY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 PSALM 32
2 EXODUS 16.1-21	3 EXODUS 16.22-36	4 JUDGES 6.1-10	5 JUDGES 6.11-35	6 2 SAMUEL 9.1-13	7 2 SAMUEL 19.9-23	8 2 SAMUEL 19.24-43
9 1 KINGS 17.8-24	10 ISAIAH 40.1-17	11 ISAIAH 40.18-31	12 ISAIAH 41.1-20	13 ISAIAH 63.7-19	14 JEREMIAH 46.13-28	15 LAMENTATIONS 3.1-33
16 EZEKIEL 11.14-25	17 EZEKIEL 20.33-44	18 EZEKIEL 33.1-20	19 EZEKIEL 36.1-15	20 EZEKIEL 36.16-38	21 EZEKIEL 39.21-29	22 DANIEL 6.10-28
23 HOSEA 6.1-11	24 HOSEA 11.1-12.1	25 HOSEA 14.1-9	26 NAHUM 1.1-15	27 HEBREWS 9.1-28	28 HEBREWS 10.1-18	29 EPHESIANS 2.1-22
30 PSALM 103	31 PSALM 113					

## AUGUST 2006 · BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS IN FAITH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 HEBREWS 10.19-39	2 HEBREWS 11.1-22	3 HEBREWS 11.23-40	4 HEBREWS 12.1-13	5 HEBREWS 12.14-29
6 EPHESIANS 5.3-20	7 EPHESIANS 5.21-6.4	8 EPHESIANS 6.10-24	9 1 THESSALONIANS 1.1-10	10 1 THESSALONIANS 2.1-16	11 1 THESSALONIANS 2.17-3.13	12 1 THESSALONIANS 4.1-18
13 1 THESSALONIANS 5.1-28	14 2 THESSALONIANS 1.1-12	15 2 THESSALONIANS 2.1-17	16 2 THESSALONIANS 3.1-18	17 1 TIMOTHY 1.1-20	18 1 TIMOTHY 2.1-15	19 1 TIMOTHY 3.1-16
20 1 TIMOTHY 4.1-16	21 1 TIMOTHY 5.1-16	22 1 TIMOTHY 5.17-6.2	23 1 TIMOTHY 6.3-21	24 2 TIMOTHY 1.1-18	25 2 TIMOTHY 2.1-13	26 2 TIMOTHY 2.14-26
27 2 TIMOTHY 3.1-17	28 2 TIMOTHY 4.1-22	29 TITUS 1.1-16	30 TITUS 2.1-15	31 TITUS 3.1-15		

## SEPTEMBER 2006 · BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND GROW IN GOD'S WISDOM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 PSALM 1	2 PSALM 19
3 JAMES 1.1-18	4 JAMES 1.19-2.13	5 JAMES 2.14-26	6 JAMES 3.1-18	7 JAMES 4.1-17	8 JAMES 5.1-20	9 JOB 28.1-28
10 PSALM 37	11 PSALM 39	12 PSALM 49	13 PSALM 139	14 1 CORINTHIANS 1.18-31	15 1 CORINTHIANS 2.1-16	16 1 CORINTHIANS 3.1-23
17 PROVERBS 1.1-33	18 PROVERBS 3.1-35	19 PROVERBS 4.1-27	20 PROVERBS 8.1-36	21 PROVERBS 9.1-18	22 PROVERBS 10.1-32	23 PROVERBS 11.1-31
24 JOHN 16.4B-33	25 PROVERBS 25.1-28	26 PROVERBS 26.1-28	27 PROVERBS 27.1-27	28 PROVERBS 28.1-28	29 PROVERBS 29.1-27	30 PROVERBS 30.1-33



# Share God's Love in Time for Christmas!

From India to China, Eastern Europe to South Africa, many have not yet heard the Good News of our Savior's birth.



That's why we're planning to deliver thousands of Bibles, Scripture Portions and Bible storybooks to these souls — desperately seeking the truth — who need to know Christ was born for them. We need your partnership this summer to help place God's Word in their hands by Christmas.

Your generosity right now will help searching adults and children receive the living Word of God this Christmas. Please act now by sending your generous Christmas in Summer gift today.

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