AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

May | June 2002

OUT OF SUFFERING SPRING SONGS OF HOPE AND HARMONY

The African Children's Choir showers New Yorkers with gratitude

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sabbatical Restoration

You may raise grain and grapes for six years, but the seventh year you must let your fields and vineyards rest in honor of me, your LORD. —LEVITICUS 25.3.4 CEV

We've all heard that "time is money." But from a Bible perspective, some time is priceless. Time spent in quiet before God is like that — like good health, it can't be bought. Yet we all desperately need it. Sabbath time is at once a stimulating high point and a quiet valley in the God-ordained rhythm of life.

Sabbath rest is central in God's instruction to us. It's about reaping the fruits of an abundant life — a period of replenishment in a disciplined, obedient life.

In Exodus 20 God explains that, "In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me" (*CEV*). To participate in Sabbath is to both reflect and acknowledge an aspect of our God-likeness. We are to follow the pattern God set for himself. Our creative activity should lead us to rest and replenishment with God and in God.

When challenged by the Pharisees, Jesus made it plain that God has given the Sabbath to us — it is our day to draw apart and to be with God. Reverent observance oxygenates our spirit and provides perspective. But Sabbath is more than a weekly cycle. It is the life cycle of our soul.

I've been on a sabbatical — the kind of hiatus best represented by a Sabbath year. A day a week allows for one level of rest and reflection. But just as God instructed the Israelites to leave the soil fallow for a year for fuller restoration, deeper levels of communion, focused prayer and spiritual restoration require drawing farther apart for longer periods.

My sabbatical worship — reflecting on Scripture with pen and paper, ruminating on matters of the spirit — required me to seek out physical and emotional separation.

What will be the result? My prayer is that, as I know God better, I will know myself better, grow surer of who I am as a person reflecting God's ultimate personhood — that my renewed spirit will more freely and fully model the creativity that is a reflection of my kinship to Divinity. And that I will taste the rest God savored when his work was done.

Eugene B. Habecker

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ON THE COVER: The African Children's Choir, orphans from five countries in Africa, returned to New York and the Pentagon with songs of hope and with an album by that name as part of the Bible Society's *Project Constant Hope* in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy. (Photo by David Singer)

RECORD

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EDITOR'S NOTE: A new Bible translation, *Today's New International Version*, will be released in the fall by the International Bible Society and Zondervan Publishing. This Bible is *NOT* published by the American Bible Society. Any questions about the *TNIV* should be addressed to the International Bible Society or Zondervan.

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THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

BY PETER FEUERHERD

They came, they sang and offered hugs to a city still in need of them. But to tell the story of the African Children's Choir visit to New York last March, one must go back to that horrible day now summed up in the cryptic shorthand of 9/11. When the World Trade Center towers — a symbol of the commercial prominence and wealth of the world's superpower — crashed to the ground, a group of orphans in one of the world's poorest countries experienced a quiet horror known only to children imagining the deaths of adults who cared for them.

These Ugandan orphans had visited New York and stayed in the homes of New Yorkers. Choir founder Ray Barnett noted that the children saw the collapse of the Twin Towers as more than a jarring news event. "They referred to the people they stayed with as aunties and uncles," he recalled. Children

are not able to make fine distinctions about destruction in a tiny sector of a huge metropolis. To the orphans, all their friends in New York were imperiled."They were inconsolable," noted Mr. Barnett, a Canadian citizen who was raised as an orphan in Northern Ireland. The children needed to come to New York and see for themselves. As one orphan choir member noted in a BBC broadcast: "We are going to sing for the children who lost their parents."

With support from the American Bible Society, they saw that their American "aunties" and "uncles" had survived 9/11 and were ready to welcome them with open arms. Using the Bible Society headquarters as a base — where for a week they were taught their school lessons — the choir provided their mix of traditional African melodies, dances, Christian hymns and American patriotic songs to appreciative audiences throughout the city.

Perhaps the most appreciative was a small group of a few dozen or so rescue workers, police, fire and sanitation workers who saw the group perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Chapel, located next door to the demolished towers in lower Manhattan. As the children sang in the chapel — now transformed into a makeshift lunch canteen for the workers — approving sighs could be heard and misty eyes seen on the faces of those workers.

Although they are perhaps the most feted group in America — the chapel is lined with cards and greetings from all over the world honoring their courage and dedication — and even though the workers have heard presidents, mayors, world renowned opera and pop singers, this event was special. When the two dozen children — their names a mixture of African monikers and western Christian biblical names such as Joshua, Daniel and Naomi — sang their patriotic medley of "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful," a grizzled New York City sanitation supervisor held up his walkie-talkie to capture the sounds. "Listen to this, guys. These kids are pretty good," he whispered to his cronies working around the city, sharing his lunchtime bounty with his comrades. The children ended their performance — punctuated with high-energy dance and drums as well as gentle pop sounds — with hugs for everyone, including New York Police Department officer Donna Thomas.

"I was here in tears," she said. "This choir was so touching, filled with little ones who want to give their support."

The New York appearances — they also performed at the American Bible Society, various churches and at Hunter College — were part of the Bible Society's *Project Constant Hope*, a ministry intended to bring healing

children victims princess Rwanda touching gentle poverty choir tears songs life
prince questions support famine Christian orphan love Uganda answers war
New York courage transformation bloody honor happy trauma villages dance

and comfort to the dispirited and wounded of heart. A series of Scripture-based booklets that addresses topics such as grief were available from the Bible Society and were distributed at the concerts, which coincided with the week that marked the six-month anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The New York tour involved one of the more than 20 choir groups that have comprised the African Children's Choir since its inception. Another choir was touring the West Coast at the same time. Choirs routinely tour around the world to garner support for African orphans and spread a message of vitality and hope.

The African Children's Choir includes children between seven and 12 years of age from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria and Ghana. They began after a 1984 visit to Uganda by Mr. Barnett, who noticed the large numbers of orphans throughout the country due to a bloody civil war. The choir raises funds to build and staff schools in large cities and villages.

The cover of their video, titled *Voice of Hope*, notes that the children's concern for the people of the United States "is all the more poignant because all the African children themselves have lived through terrible traumas in their own lives. Almost all are orphans and have experienced war, poverty and famine."

Victoria Nalugwa of Uganda, a member of the first choir formed in 1984, said that her involvement with the group when she was a 10-year-old changed her life. An orphan herself, she said that the choir "became a total life support. It gives an opportunity you wouldn't have otherwise." Through her involvement with the choir, she traveled the world and was able to pursue an education normally reserved only for the wealthiest of people in her country. Better still, the choir members became her family, a process that is repeated today by the young choir members performing on their U.S. tour. She is now studying communications in England.

Tony Mbowa is another choir alumnus who now works as a music director for the group. His father, a pastor, was murdered in the early 1980s by troops led by now-deposed Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. He and his four siblings were orphaned after their mother died of cancer soon after. They found a home in the African Children's Choir.

"It was the biggest miracle of my life," Mr. Mbowa said about his involvement with the choir, which has produced lawyers, doctors, civil engineers and teachers who have helped to rebuild Uganda.

Other choirs are planned for war-ravaged countries highlighted in today's news headlines, including Sudan and Afghanistan. The choir offers a concept of family that can be transferred around the world, said Mr. Barnett, who noted that the choir helps to transform the image of African children wherever they perform, whether in American concert halls or on the BBC.

"We don't want the African child typecast with a tin cup," he said. "No matter where they come out of, they become princes and princesses."

The difference is, fortunately for those who hear and see them, these royals are willing to leave their palaces and show the world what they have to offer. They've had tough lives, emphasized Mr. Barnett.

"They are the victims," he noted, adding, however, "they are also the answer."

princess touching

gentle answers war

children victims life

courage tears happy

Warming up at the WINTER lympics

Spiritual Solace through the Scriptures • by Peter Feuerherd

While cool winter Olympic sports brought together thousands of young people from around the globe to Salt Lake City in February, the American Bible Society provided the warmth of the Scriptures and the solace of Christian community to athletes and spectators alike. ¶ Volunteers and staff distributed Scriptures and the Bible Society co-sponsored twice-daily prayer services fashioned by Brothers from the French monastic community of Taizé. Each day, a mix of spectators and media personnel, and occasionally, athletes, gathered at the St. Catherine of Siena Newman Center, partaking of a prayerful respite from the bustle of crowds and the intense pressure the games put on athletes. ¶ The hour-long multi-confessional services followed a simple but powerful format created by the Taizé community (known throughout the world for their message of international peace and harmony). Simple, meditative music and candlelight ushered participants into periods of worship and contemplative silence. Service content centered on Scripture reading and prayers read in a variety of languages, reflecting the international character of the Olympics. ¶ "I think the fire was lit," said Jean E. Bross-Judge, senior administrator, Programs at the American Bible Society, who assisted at the games. The services showed that "The Word of God is bigger than anything that divides people, and it's for all." She credited the success of the prayer services to the support of the Bible Society as well as the help from two co-sponsors, the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City and GIA Publications, Inc., a liturgical music publisher based in Chicago. *continued on page 13 >>*

Some 1,800 volunteers and Bible Society staffers spread the warmth of God's love.

Scriptures Bring Hope in Economic Crisis

The Argentine Bible Society (SBA) will be distributing hundreds of thousands of Scriptures to bring hope to those most affected by the country's recent financial collapse.

Juan Terranova, the deputy general secretary of the SBA, said that churches in Argentina "are waking up to a hard reality — many of their members are jobless and their offerings have decreased significantly." Because of smaller offerings, he said, "the churches do not have any money to buy Scripture materials, and yet it is only the Word of God that can bring hope to those who have lost it."

According to Mr. Terranova, the situation in Argentina is just short of a "complete catastrophe." He added that many people are suffering depression. Some are so desperate that they see suicide as the only way out.

Thanks to emergency funding by the United Bible Societies (UBS) — through its Rapid Response Reserve — the SBA will be able to grant Scriptures to help churches minister to the many Argentines who have lost hope.

The main objective of the UBS-supported program, Mr. Terranova said, "is to bring hope that can only come from God and his Word, and take it to every corner of our country, particularly the poorest among the poor, who are increasing in number every day."

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Your May gift will bring Bibles to people in Argentina. Your June offering will provide Scriptures in Sudan. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below, or write:

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BIBLE-A-MONTH CLUB®

Miracle of miracles! Everyone was on time for this week's choir practice. Even Wanda, who is *always* late. To what does the choir director owe thanks for this miracle? (Besides the grace of God, of course.) The church's new Web site, which ForMinistry gave them the tools to build — free of charge! A church calendar is posted there, constantly updated and accessible to the congregation members 24-7. Amen, sister! Check out www.ForMinistry.com and find out how it can help strengthen your connection with your congregation.

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ForMinistry is an Internet ministry of the American Bible Society

BUILD FIND CONNECT SHARE

update

INTERNATIONAL

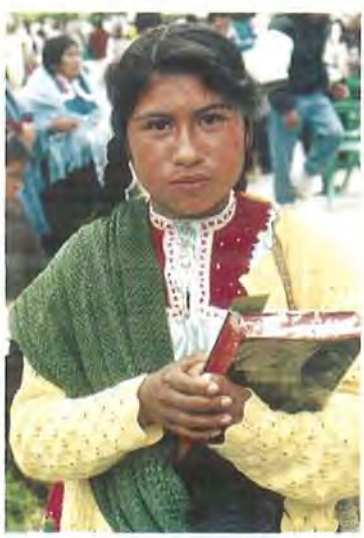
MEXICO

More than 10,000 guests participated in the dedication of the completed translation of the Bible in the Tzotzil: Chamula language last November. Its publication, a Bible Society of Mexico initiative, was hailed as a positive step in providing Scriptures to an indigenous group in Mexico who had been persecuted by their own people for their belief in Christ.

Tzotzil Christians who choose not to take part in certain Tzotzil traditional practices that conflict with Christ's teachings are ostracized by their community and, in many cases, forced to relocate. Some 40,000 of these *expulsados*, as they are called, live in Nueva Esperanza, where the new translation was launched. About 10,000 copies of this new Bible arrived in time for the event.

Speakers pointed out the dual benefits of the translation: to provide support to Tzotzil Christians and to help preserve their language by putting it into writing, something that will benefit all Tzotzil people. "The Bible carries a message of peace and harmony," the Rev. Abner López, General Secretary of the Bible Society, told the gathering. "We do not want to present the translation simply as an evangelical effort — it is a *common* effort. The Bible has no denomination, it is for everyone."

A Tzotzil woman holds a copy of the Tzotzil: Chamula Bible during its launch last November in Chiapas, Mexico.



GUSTAVO LUJÁN/BIBLE SOCIETY OF MEXICO

IRAQ

A last-minute invitation from Iraq allowed the Bible Society in Lebanon (BSL) to participate in the Baghdad Book Fair in Iraq last year, their first time since 1997.

When another unexpected invitation came — the use of three booths at the fair instead of a single stall — staffers and volunteers teamed up with Bible distribution ministries Manarah Book Ministries and Open Doors Ministries to supply and staff them.

During the 10-day event, visitors flocked to the well-stocked stands, buying thousands of Bibles. "This is a dream! We've never seen anything like this before," said Sister Zaheda, a Dominican nun.

MALAWI

After floods destroyed the homes, livestock and crops of hundreds of thousands of people in Malawi last year, the Bible Society of Malawi (BSM) organized a Scripture distribution to supplement the relief efforts in the affected districts.

Kamwana Muyaya, BSM marketing manager and Patrick Semphere, BSM media officer took 3,000 New Testaments and 2,000 Scripture Portions in the Chisena language, and 5,000 New Reader Portions in the Chichewa language. The response was "overwhelming," said Mr. Semphere.

"These Scriptures will comfort people during these troubled times," said the Rev. Fanuel Stacia Makozera at the Ark of Christ Mission in Nsanje.

Material relief had been going out to more than 11,000 families who were left homeless when the Shire River burst its banks after heavy rains. But people were hungering for more, said Mr. Muyaya. "It was amazing that upon leaving a message in a village about our distribution activities, it was only a matter of minutes before a huge crowd gathered to receive Scriptures," he said.

District Commissioner Kiswell Dahamau praised the BSM for providing the spiritual comfort to the victims. "I am grateful that our relief exercise can now be described as complete with the Scripture component provided for," he told BSM representatives.

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update

NATIONAL

NEW YORK

The actress and singer Della Reese has not only been touched by an angel, she is regularly touched by the Scriptures as well.

"The Bible is my 'how do' book. Scripture is filled with what I need," Ms. Reese told the annual National Church Advisory Council (NCAC) banquet held at the Bible House last November.

The council is a group of church leaders representing different faith traditions, both clergy and lay, that advises the American Bible Society on its Bible translation and distribution efforts.

In her address to the NCAC group, she emphasized the importance of the Bible Society's mission to promote the Scriptures. "We need the Bible, I open my Bible, read, digest what's there, and know what to do," she said, adding that she feels compelled to spread the Word of God both through her entertainment and ministry work.

Ms. Reese, starring in the long-running CBS program *Touched by an Angel*, is also the pastor of her own congregation in Los Angeles.

In an interview before her speech, she noted that the show dramatizes the impact that God has on the lives of ordinary people, yet also reinforces the message that people need to do for themselves as well.

Della Reese

THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

"We are not here to fix things for people," she said about the angel characters in the show. "We are here to help people fix things for themselves."

Ms. Reese, 70, has had a long and varied career beginning at six, singing in her hometown of Detroit. She toured with gospel great Mahalia Jackson at 12, and at 18 created the Meditation Singers, the first group to bring gospel music to Las Vegas casinos.

She sang with the Erskine Hawkins Orchestra and appeared more than 20 times on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. She acted in numerous television sitcoms and dramas before landing her role as Tess, the gruff but good-hearted supervisor angel, on her current series. That role has won her five NAACP Image awards.

Her autobiography titled *Angels Along the Way, My Life with Help from Above*, chronicles Ms. Reese's long faith journey.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

American military personnel involved in "Operation Enduring Freedom" have received some 10,000 easy-to-read *Good News Translation* Bibles (*GNT*) from the American Bible Society.

Colonel Henry A. Haynes, Pentagon chaplain, noted that the Bibles, distributed through the military chaplains, have been well received. "No one rejected a Bible," he said, adding that many soldiers are now reading the Bible for the first time as a result. Scripture materials provided by the Bible Society are regularly taken off a rack in his office and read by staff at the Pentagon, which was attacked Sept. 11.

"What has happened at the Pentagon was terrible and damaged us all," he said. "But in a wonderful way it has made us stronger, more considerate, more loving of others. Blessings have flowed from the tragedy and the American Bible Society has been crucial in all that."

Dr. Joseph V. Crockett, director of research for the American Bible Society Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship, is coordinating the military Bible distribution effort. He noted that the Bible is perhaps most needed by military people facing dangers overseas.

"There are times when we realize that our faith isn't just in our heads. The Bible provides both a human response and the hope of heaven to that existential situation," he said.

[Warming up at the Winter Olympics cont.]

There were some unexpected obstacles, noted Ms. Bross-Judge. Because of security concerns, workers directed the crowds at the games away from the church site. The early services attracted fewer than a dozen worshipers. By the end, however, a small community of some 60 daily worshipers had formed.

The presence of a quiet, spiritual haven in the midst of the bustle of the games was appreciated. "There was a serenity that was glorious," said Beth Guss, a Salt Lake City woman who participated in the services. The Bible Society also joined a giant Christian ministry outreach at the games coordinated by the More Than Gold partnership, a group representing more than 100 churches of various denominations and 15 Christian sports organizations. Groups included the Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and the Southern Baptist Convention.

More than 1,800 volunteers and Bible Society staff distributed 14,000 American Bible Society *More Than Gold Bibles* — with a special preface highlighting the connection between sports and spirituality — and 30,000 copies of *Time to Hope*, a CD-ROM including the New Testament and Scripture-based contemporary music.

Through the leadership of Davyd Hepburn, manager of Sports Ministry for the Bible Society, CDs were distributed even before the games began. As the Olympic torch made its way across the country, Bible Society representatives followed, handing out *A Time to Hope* copies during preliminary ceremonies held in communities along the route.

Later, during the Olympics, said Mr. Hepburn, workers passed out Bibles at a centrally located Christian Internet café; at Salvation Army sites that provided canteens of hot chocolate and water to fans and athletes; and at church festivals held in Salt Lake City in conjunction with the games.

"The American Bible Society played a huge role," noted Julie Brown, an FCA staff member who is also with the Utah Games Network, a ministry outreach formed for the games.

The media also paid attention. USA Radio Network, United News Radio and CBS News Radio aired interviews with Bible Society representatives. Public Television's "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly" featured footage of the prayer service, and reports were distributed to Catholic newspapers around the country.

"Thanks for the heart for God. I know that people's lives will be touched," Ms. Brown said, expressing thanks for the support given by the American Bible Society and its benefactors.

The legacy of ecumenical prayer — bringing together a wide range of Christians in Salt Lake City — may well be the strongest legacy of the Bible Society outreach, noted Ms. Bross-Judge. "After the Olympic Torch was extinguished, the fire of the Word burning within the hearts of Christians remained," said Ms. Bross-Judge. "The strength of that fire, that Word — when people come together across denominational lines — is powerful beyond measure," she said.

IN MEMORIAM

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Kathleen and Boyd Eargle
Given by: The Boyd Eargle Family

My Sister,
Mrs. Janet England
My Brother,
Bob MacDonald
Given by: Helen Elizabeth Beattie

In loving memory of my Husband, Elsworth L. Ernst
Given by: Bertha Ernst

Marjorie M. Jay and Harold J. Jay
Given by: Wayne Jay

My Wife, Tina Woerner
Given by: Robert F. Woerner

My Husband, Rev. John Yong
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quiet time

We hope you will use this guide in your daily study of the Bible, and that you will write to tell us what you think of this feature and how you use it.

MAY

God's Word:
Source of Renewal

1 Psalm 30
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
2 Psalm 47
3 John 14.1-14
4 John 14.15-31
SUNDAY
*5 John 15.18 – 16.15
6 John 16.16-33
7 John 20.19-31
8 John 21.1-19
ASCENSION DAY
9 Acts 1.1-11
10 Acts 1.12-26
11 Ezekiel 11.14-25
SUNDAY
12 Ezekiel 20.33-44
13 Ezekiel 36.1-15
14 Ezekiel 36.16-38
15 Ezekiel 37.1-14
16 Ezekiel 37.15-28
17 Ezekiel 39.11-29
18 Joel 2.28 – 3.8
PENTECOST SUNDAY
19 Acts 2.1-13
20 Acts 2.14-36
21 Acts 2.37-47
22 Acts 4.1-22
23 Acts 4.23-37
24 Acts 5.1-16
25 Acts 5.17-42
SUNDAY
26 Acts 8.4-25
27 Acts 8.26-40
28 Acts 12.1-19
29 Acts 13.1-12
30 Acts 13.13-33
31 Acts 13.34-52

**Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter on May 5, 2002.*

JUNE

God's Word:
Source of Mercy

1 Matthew 18.21-35
SUNDAY
2 Luke 15.11-32
3 Genesis 33.1-17
4 Genesis 50.15-26
5 Exodus 33.1-11
6 Exodus 33.12-23
7 Exodus 34.1-9
8 Exodus 34.10-28
SUNDAY
9 Psalm 23
10 Psalm 25
11 Psalm 32
12 Psalm 34
*13 Psalm 62
14 Psalm 103
15 Psalm 123
SUNDAY
16 Isaiah 40.1-17
17 Isaiah 40.18-31
18 Isaiah 51.1-11
19 Isaiah 51.12-23
20 Joel 2.1-17
21 Jonah 3.1-10
22 Jonah 4.1-11
SUNDAY
*23 Micah 7.8-20
24 Zechariah 1.1-17
25 Zechariah 2.1-13
26 Zechariah 10.1-12
27 Psalm 106.1-23
28 Psalm 106.24-48
29 Romans 9.19-29
SUNDAY
30 Hebrews 10.1-18

**Orthodox Christians will observe Ascension Day on June 13, and Pentecost Sunday on June 23, 2002.*

JULY

God's Word:
Source of Promise

1 Genesis 8.1-22
2 Genesis 9.1-17
3 Genesis 12.1-9
4 Genesis 15.1-21
5 Genesis 17.1-14
6 Genesis 17.15-27
SUNDAY
7 Genesis 18.1-15
8 Genesis 21.1-21
9 Genesis 22.1-19
10 Genesis 28.10-22
11 Exodus 19.1-25
12 Deuteronomy 6.10-25
13 Deuteronomy 7.1-11
SUNDAY
14 Deuteronomy 7.12-26
15 Judges 6.1-10
16 Judges 6.11-27
17 Judges 6.28-40
18 2 Samuel 7.1-17
19 2 Samuel 7.18-29
20 Psalm 89.1-37
SUNDAY
21 Psalm 105
22 Isaiah 54.1-17
23 Isaiah 56.1-8
24 Jeremiah 31.31-40
25 Jeremiah 32.26-44
26 Jeremiah 33.1-13
27 Jeremiah 33.14-26
SUNDAY
28 Galatians 3.1-14
29 Galatians 3.15 – 4.7
30 Galatians 4.8-31
31 Hebrews 8.1-13

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
Sharing God's Word with the World

To Our Ministry Partners,

You may have noticed a change with your March/April issue of the *Record*. As a cost-savings measure, we moved our bi-monthly publishing schedule ahead one month, thus skipping February. Unfortunately, for many of you this meant missing several days or more of the Bible-reading schedule we provide and, for that, I apologize.

Donations to the American Bible Society have decreased since September 11. We attribute some of this to increased giving to charities such as the Red Cross. A slowed economy is another factor. And much of our support depends on postal facilities disrupted by the anthrax attacks.

Our commitment to good stewardship prompted us to reduce operating costs wherever we could. Moving the *Record* ahead one month meant some savings. Publishing a smaller issue saves still more.

But no reduction has been made in our Scripture-sharing programs. Your gifts are still being used to share the hope of God's Word with people around the world. We are forever thankful for your continued support, especially in these challenging times.

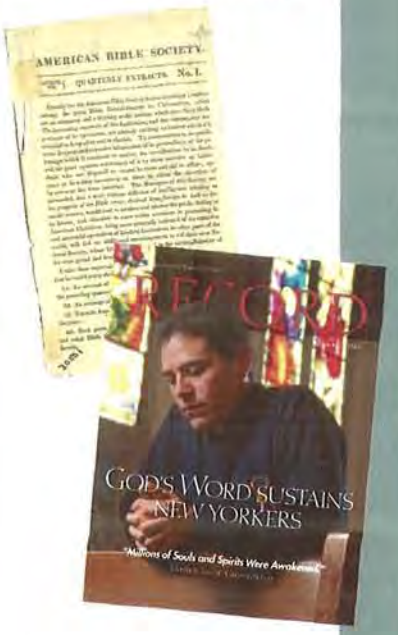
To make your gifts go even further, and for your added convenience, we plan to make the *Record* available on the Internet in the near future. If you would also like to receive the *Record* downloadable via the Internet, please indicate that on the reply envelope in the center of the magazine.

Again, my thanks to you for helping us share God's Word.

Eugene B. Habecker

Eugene B. Habecker, President

The *Record* since 1818 – now also available on the Web at www.americanbible.org



P.S. Please note that in this issue we've included the Scripture readings for three months: May, June and July.

PLEASE PRAY

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – Praise the Lord for the distribution of Scriptures in the Russian Federation and for missionary trips over the past two years to remote areas of Siberia. Pray for the blind people who received Braille and audio Scriptures last year.

ANGOLA – Thank God for his faithfulness. War continues to shatter lives, but there is a growing hunger for God's Word. Please remember translation work in your prayers.

ROMANIA – Give thanks for the support from *Opportunity 21*, which helps provide Scriptures for orphanages, nursing homes and prisons. Pray for the completion of the interconfessional translation of the New Testament.

MOLDOVA – Praise God for his continuous protection, and pray that the Bible Society can continue to share God's Word in the face of an increasingly atheistic culture. Ask God for more successful fund raising to result in more Scriptures for the poor, who form a majority of the population. Continue praying for cooperation between the Orthodox and Protestant churches.

MALAWI – Please pray for the forthcoming Chisena Bible and audio New Testament. Ask that the *Living in Hope* Scripture Portion brings comfort to many people suffering from AIDS. Give thanks for the support *Opportunity 21* provides for the *Faith Comes By Hearing* audio Scripture program.

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Yes! I want to help share God's Word to the spiritually needy people in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

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