AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

June | July 1999

WHEN I'M TROUBLED...

WHERE *RECORD* READERS FIND SOLACE IN THE BIBLE

Diane E. Tremper
Teacher,
Newark Boys
Chorus School

SCRIPTURES ENERGIZE CATHOLIC YOUTH • page 10 ■ SOUTHWEST SPIRITUALITY • page 12

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Parenting in the Scriptures

"Nothing about me is hidden from you! I was secretly woven together deep in the earth below, but with your own eyes you saw my body being formed." **Psalm 139.15 CEV**

The world exploded in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20, when two students at Columbine High School gunned down a teacher and fellow classmates. Media reaction reverberated with a ubiquitous and bewildered, "Why?" "How could this happen?"

While there is much in modern America that is very right, the Bible tells us that there are basic human needs—needs for social connections and community and God (family and church) that have been terribly ignored if not absolutely forsaken.

An article in the May *Atlantic Monthly* asserts, "...moral values and social rules are not simply arbitrary constraints on individual choice but the precondition of any kind of cooperative enterprise." It goes on to say that our culture, so focused on individual rights, "...ends up being bereft of community...true communities are bound together by [shared] values, norms, and experiences..."

A related problem, highlighted in the April 26 *New York Times,* had the tag line, "All those who deny any linkage between violence in entertainment and violence in real life, think again."

While Francis Fukuyama, author of the *Atlantic Monthly* article, suggests that the solution will be found in human nature, we believe Scripture tells us otherwise. It is God, our heavenly father, who has set boundaries and gives us "golden" rules for living in community. It is He who calls on us to be peacemakers. For two thousand years and more, the Scriptures, better than a thousand Dr. Spocks, have understood human developmental need—boundaries, love, security, community...

The American Bible Society is reaching out to youth with God's Word—to aquaint them with the spiritual intimacy the Psalmist wrote about. ABS strives to present the Scriptures with a freshness and in formats that can compete with the multitude of other media aimed at young people.

This issue of the *Record* highlights several ABS efforts to distribute these Scriptures: we partner with local parishes to conduct Catholic Youth Retreats, sponsor salsa concerts to connect with Hispanic Youth, and support an ABS volunteer whose specific mission is to young people.

In a society where the web of support for youth is so torn, directing young men and women to the sure love found in God's Word is critical. It is urgent.

Eugene B. Habecker

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

ABS RECORD

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The mission of the American Bible Society is to provide the Holy Scriptures to every man, woman and child in a language and form each can readily understand, and at a price each can easily afford. This purpose, undertaken without doctrinal note or comment, and without profit, is a cause which all Christians and all churches are urged to support. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of Bible societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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RECORD

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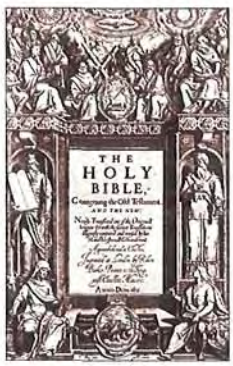

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We encourage you to send your letters to: Editor, *American Bible Society Record*, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: (212) 408-8710. Reach ABS on the web at **www.americanbible.org**

WHEN I'M TROUBLED...

WHERE *RECORD* READERS FIND SOLACE IN THE BIBLE

The Record recently asked readers to respond to the following questions: "What Scripture passage do you turn to in times of trouble? How has that Scripture passage had an impact on your life?" Here are some of the responses:

Diane Tremper, a teacher at the Newark, N.J., Boys Chorus School, found inspiration from John 15 on a trip to the former Soviet Union.

Diane E. Tremper, Maplewood, N.J.: "I was traveling in Europe for the first time. I was in Finland preparing to enter the former Soviet Union alone. Fearing my Bible would be confiscated if I brought it in, I chose one passage to copy by hand to have for my devotional use. That passage was John 15, in which Jesus speaks of himself as the vine, and of believers as branches that bring forth fruit.

"I went by train from Helsinki to Moscow in an overnight compartment. In the evening security guards came and searched the four bunks, my luggage, and my personal effects. They confiscated a Russian Bible I had bought at ABS headquarters before leaving the U.S. and a bulletin from the Rock Church of Helsinki. Then a woman guard came and frisked me.

"As if knowing I would be shaken after such an ordeal, a train attendant brought me a cup of tea in a traditional Russian glass held by a wrought silver holder. Beautifully embossed on the holder were clusters of grapes, reminding me of the verse, 'I am the vine, you are the branches.' I wept to be comforted by the warmth of the tea, and most importantly for the reminder of the promise of God that I was

a branch in the vine... God undertook for me that week by guarding, keeping and sustaining me through his precious Word."

Cecelia St. Clair, Jefferson, Ore.: "My brother died suddenly at age 35. There was no warning. I was devastated, shocked and emotionally frozen.

"Usually I turn immediately to Scripture for assistance, but this grief was so consuming I became numb, almost catatonic. As the shock and denial wore off, I turned to the source of help that brought comfort to me in the past.

"As I opened my Bible I found Isaiah 53:4 and as I read it, I knew I had a friend who understood. He had been there before me and He shared my sorrow. Never had Jesus meant so much to me. I had experienced grief, but I also experienced the precious presence and understanding of my Savior, Lord and Friend.

"No one else knew how I felt, but He did and that thought comforted and sustained me through an unbelievable loss. This text is emblazoned in my memory and through all trials of life it continues to sustain me.

"A burden shared is halved; a joy shared is doubled."

LaVona Stalup Reid, Rock Port, Mo.: "It was the winter of 1995. I had a terrible case of flu. ...

"Prior to getting ill, I had lost my beloved sister-like cousin and her husband, both in the same horrendous automobile wreck. I had been at their home in the little town where she and I had grown up, waiting for them to get home from St. Joe that afternoon; they never made it. Oh, what a loss!

"The Scripture which I turned to that winter in this crisis, as I was lying in bed, so very ill, was very helpful to me. Being a widow, I did not have my husband to encourage me and watch over me during my sickness, as he had done 25 years before that when I had almost died with the old-fashioned flu, when I was a kindergarten teacher.

Whether I feel like the whole world is crashing in on me or even when there has been a simple misunderstanding, I can find peace and assurance because I have God's word on the matter.

"My helpful passage was Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!' Grieving possibly prolonged my period of time in bed. But consistent verbalizing of Philippians 4:13 gave me peace and encouraged me. I got stronger each day."

Linda K. Primrose, Corona del Mar, Ca.: "I have claimed many Scriptures as promises over the years, especially as my children were growing up. But one that has had a tremendous impact on my life recently is Jeremiah 31:4: 'I will raise you up and you shall be rebuilt, you will go forth and dance with tambourines.' I still have a lovely little tambourine given to me as a small child, which is now a precious memento.

The Scriptures have helped Linda Primrose cope with debilitating arthritis.

"In 1994 my health began to decline rapidly. The day I received the diagnosis of severe systemic rheumatoid arthritis, Jeremiah 31:4 was my daily verse. Through the months of agonizing pain and crippling, I did not give up searching for a better treatment than the traditional

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

toxic drugs. Even though the rheumatologist told me, 'you've got it, you're never going to get over it, so get used to it.'

"In early '95 I read about a government study using a type of tetracycline, Minocin, to treat rheumatoid arthritis. It said the improvement of many people was profound. ... My husband called the National Hospital in Arlington, Va., and they gave him the name of a doctor not too far from our home.

"In just a few months, I began to improve. I have no pain, no crippling, and my life has slowly been restored to me and my family. It is all because the Lord gave me hope and faith to look past the hard facts of life to Him."

Ruthanne Mariano says the Lord is her Good Shepherd.

Winsome Sears, Norfolk, Va.: "When my family went through a wrenching financial experience for two years, I read the following verse from Exodus 13:17-18: 'When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was the shortest way. For God said, 'If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea (the longer way).'

"That verse let me know that I didn't have to have great faith to believe that God was with us, cared, and would help us. We just needed to have some faith. God will use whatever faith you have: you'll get where you're supposed to go, it might take you longer, but he will take you through."

Lynn Kroonblawd, Rochester, Minn.: "'Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him (I Thessalonians 4:13-14).'

"This passage became a source of comfort to me in June of 1994. I had just given birth to our second child and the next day my husband shared with me the sad news that my godfather and uncle, a faithful pastor, had died of a sudden heart attack. I was on an emotional roller coaster, experiencing the joy of a new baby, but grieving the loss of an important man in my life.

"A few days before I had given birth, I was reading Thessalonians 4:13-14 as part of my daily Bible study, not realizing that the words would become a source of comfort. Shortly after I found out about the death of my uncle, a pastor stopped by my hospital room and shared the exact same passage with me.

"The Lord knew that in my grief, I could also experience joy because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

"In September of 1997 it was my turn again to

face grief that seemed unbearable. My own father died of a sudden heart attack. Paul's words again gave me God's peace. I could grieve knowing that my father was with Jesus! As my journey on this earth grows longer there will be other losses that will touch my life. But I Thessalonians 4:13-14 will always be in my heart, so that I can grieve with the assurance of life eternal."

I had experienced grief, but I also experienced the precious presence and understanding of my Savior . . .

Ruthanne Mariano, New Brunswick, NJ: "I frequently recite 'The Lord is My Shepherd' (Psalm 23) quietly when I have trouble sleeping, or when I am kneeling around the altar, or in front of my seat during a prayer service when I am praying for others. It is calming. (I am a member of the Assembly of God Church in Metuchen, NJ)."

Jean Walborn, Harrisburg, Pa.: "'I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13).

"This verse helped me when we lost our only daughter to leukemia at the age of 18. Each time I got off my knees by my bed I felt stronger.

"I also felt the prayers of my church strengthening me. I know that there is nothing, together, that God and I can't handle. He holds my hand. My husband went home to be with his Lord last September and now I live alone but I'm really not alone, ever.

"He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. God gives me strength at 75 to drive my car and minister to my class members at church and visit three nursing homes. At two nursing homes, I visit ladies who were former members of my class and at the third one I hold devotional once a month for 30 minutes. God is so good to me and I thank Him for the strength I have."

Susan Binu, Bronx, NY: "The Lord gives me specific chapters or Bible verses to comfort me during the time of crisis or a trial. However, the verse that I always run to is Psalms 34. It has so much of God's promises and provision for a believer. It has given me great comfort and it gives me hope that if I look to the face of God, I will never be ashamed.

"I am not worthy to receive God's grace with any of my abilities, David writes. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. This tells me that if I earnestly cry before God and put my trust in Him, then He alone can act on my behalf and deliver me from my problems. ...

"At this moment I am going through a great trial in my life. I am not sure where it is going as there is no way out for me. All the doors are closed and I am imploring God to act in a miraculous way where His name will be glorified in the end. I know that God is faithful to His promises and He has promised to be with us till the end. All I can do now is rest in His promises and gently wait on Him. He said, stand still and know that I am God. ..."

Ruth L. Burkholder, Harrisonburg, Va.: "My favorite Scripture verse in all the Bible is I Corinthians 10.13, 'There hath no temptation take you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.' (King James Version). Many times over the years when going through hard times, I thought I couldn't take job pressures, physical pain, loss of loved ones or discouragement, I would remind God of His promise and somehow always a way was made that I could bear it. Now at age 70, I do not fear what may come, as God is faithful and will always keep His promises."

OUR NEXT QUESTION FOR OUR READERS: "Who is your favorite person in the Bible? Why?" Submit your answers to these questions—please keep to less than 300 words—to The Record, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. You can also respond via e-mail to pfeuerherd@americanbible.org. Selections will appear in a future issue of the Record. Please enclose a daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and clarity.

CROSSING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SINGER

Twenty feet below ground level sits the excavated remains of an ancient city. Across the street a corps of craftsmen applies finishing touches to the restoration of elegant building facades devastated by civil war. Pockets of rubble and burned-out buildings slowly give way to broad boulevards defined by towers of glass and steel. Rebuilding in Lebanon goes on at a relentless pace. But will the vanishing marks of war allow people to forget the fruits of religious fervor not disciplined by Christ-like compassion and forgiveness? The Bible Societies of the Middle East know the message of God's Word can cement the fragile peace. They see Bible distribution and Bible education as an integral part of the rebuilding process.

Jamal Hashweh, General Director for the Bible Society in Jordan, greets Roman Catholic Bishop Selim Sayegh. They are exploring ways the Bible Society can support the Scripture needs of a new "Peace Center" planned to serve the handicapped in Amman, Jordan.

The Bible Society in Lebanon serves as a hub for Bible distribution to Syria, Iraq, and the Gulf States. It is also the primary source of Scriptures for Lebanon's one million Christians (nearly one third of the population). However, since the advent of civil war in 1975, it has relied heavily on assistance from the Bible Society in Jordan for distribution to Iraq.

Rev. Lucien Accad, recruited in 1977 to rebuild the Bible Society in Lebanon, sees the Society, like Lebanon itself, rising from the ashes of a brutal civil war. He attributes the Bible Society's good relations with Lebanon's diverse church community to the fact that, with the assistance of the United Bible Societies, the Bible Society was able to maintain a presence throughout the civil war, and even, on occasion, offered humanitarian aid. Says Lucien, "Like Abraham, we were living from a tent, going, but not knowing where. We

BORDERS

Palestinian boys in Gaza head for home after school. The Bible Society supplies school and public libraries throughout Gaza with Scriptures.

lost our offices several times, our stock several times, but now we are finding our way."

Part of the rebuilding will include buttressing Bible support to churches in Syria. Lucien says, "We work freely within the church compounds, and new churches can be built as needed." The Bible Society continues to receive permission for a presence at the book fair in Damascus—a ten-day affair.

In Lebanon, says Lucien, "we have freedom to distribute the Bible anywhere. That doesn't mean we don't need to be sensitive to the people and their culture. Nevertheless, this country, more than anywhere else in the Middle East, provides an open forum for religious discussion, whether on TV, radio, or on a stage.

"Many non-Christians in this country regard the Bible as precious, and they want to know what is in this book—whether it is just religious or has more to it."

Book fairs in Lebanon, like elsewhere in the Middle East, are effective avenues for Bible distribution. At the last fair, Bibles were the best-selling item. "During the exhibitions people from many different religious persuasions ask for Bibles. We even had a Druze shop owner ask us for Bibles to exhibit in his bookshop," Lucien says.

The civil war has left Lebanese education in shambles. The Bible Society has helped rebuild by providing New Testament Scriptures to 400 primary and secondary Catholic schools and to many of the 22 Protestant schools. The Bible Society sponsors a variety of Bible-oriented programs in religious schools—puppet shows, concerts, and drama presentations—to stimulate student interest in the Bible.

Opportunity to share God's Word is also expanding in Jordan, according to General Director Jamal Hashweh. In 1998, the Bible Society in Jordan was officially registered with the Ministry of Culture. This, combined with new laws that allow greater religious freedom, such as teaching Christianity in the public schools to children from Christian families, gives the Bible Society greater latitude to carry out its work.

The Bible Society already provides affordable Scriptures to all the religious schools in

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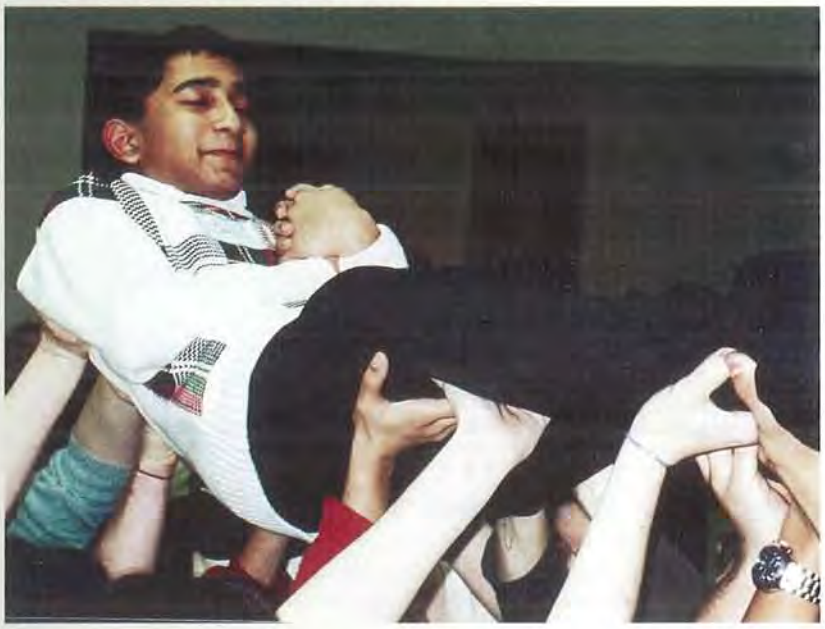
Labib Madanat, Executive Secretary for the Bible Society in the West Bank, discusses construction progress with contractors at the new Bible store in Gaza.

Karl Coutinho participates in trust exercise.



Scripture Retreats Energize CATHOLIC YOUTH

BY PETER FEUERHERD

Jean Bross-Judge, left, gets Scripture response from Matthew Oleskiewicz, center, and Christopher Warshaw.

It's not your father's Bible study.

That could very well be the theme for the youth-oriented Scripture retreats sponsored by the American Bible Society in Catholic parishes around the country.

"The Extreme Faith Youth Retreat" takes as a central premise that adolescent energy can be channeled into interest in the Bible and Christian teaching, just as it is commonly plugged into hip-hop music and slang which befuddles parents. It's not an easy task, as Jean E. Bross-Judge, the ABS consultant who coordinates the retreat program, can attest.

"How many of you are expecting it to be boring?" Jean asks a gathering of some 60 12- and 13-year-olds brought together for a Bible retreat on a Sunday afternoon at Queenship of Mary Church in Plainsboro, N.J., located in the middle of the long suburban stretch between New York and Philadelphia.

A few tentative hands go up. Those represent the brave ones—the expressions on most of the faces indicate that the sentiment is widely shared. Other faces indicate apprehension.

Jean spends the rest of the afternoon attempting, largely successfully, to dispel both sentiments.

First the young people gather together in small groups, which she proceeds to break up by various devices, such as the exercise in which people are urged to roam the room in search of potential friends with the same shoe size. The idea is to promote friendships among the young people, many of whom don't know each other because they attend different local public schools.

With the help of both adult and teen leaders, Jean orchestrates the event developing, over the space of four short hours, two themes: Christian community, which the young people will join as participating adults after their Confirmation, and learning about God's Word.

The young people engage in building "human ladders," an exercise promoting trust in which those who bravely volunteer are thrust up high by their fellows. Juggling exercises and group races promote the theme of cooperation.

Included are serious religious issues. In a solemn ceremony, the participants are urged to commit themselves to the process for the afternoon, mimicking the commitment to Christianity they will make in their Con-

firmation. In another competition, the young people are urged to race forward when Jean describes a Bible passage. The first one to locate the passage reads it aloud and wins a prize.

Prizes relate to the themes: a bag of M & Ms for the boy who locates the Martha and Mary story; a piggy bank for the girl who discovers Luke's account of the widow's mite, and a Mr. Potato Head for the boy who finds the Scriptural metaphor of the church being one body with many parts.

By the end of the afternoon, each theme has come into focus. Evaluations from the adult leaders in the parish are positive.

"I thought it was great," says Dan Vacca, Confirmation coordinator at the parish. "When you're in the middle of it, you are having a great time, and you don't know where it's going. But Jean pulled it together at the end."

He notes, "The kids got into the challenge of looking at the Bible and reading it."

Angela DiLouie, parish director of religious education, says the retreat offers a chance to "plant some seeds which will eventually take root" in the faith lives of the young people of the parish.

The retreat offers a chance to 'plant some seeds which will eventually take root' in the faith lives of the young people of the parish.

Evaluations of the young people were also positive. The activities were "fun and challenging," says one. Adds another, "I liked the way I met new people." On an evaluation scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best), the exercise rates, among most of the participants surveyed, an "8" or a "9," easily surpassing expectations.

Jean says the young people will not be able to duplicate their Sunday afternoon experience when they confront personal crises. But each participant was given an ABS "Extreme Faith" Bible as a legacy of the experience.

Scripture, she says, "is the rock and foundation" of the youth retreat. "It is a gift we can offer to them which will go beyond the day."

Brian White, Matthew Porcelli, Neil Radia, Matthew Kennedy, and Daniel Kowalski partake in discussion.

A LONG HISTORY OF CATHOLIC OUTREACH

The Catholic youth retreat is just one program among many sponsored by the Catholic Ministries department of the American Bible Society.

Jeannette Russo, director of the department and a Catholic herself who has worked for ABS since 1991, acknowledges that Catholics frequently "don't read the Bible the way Protestants do." But the Scriptures, she emphasizes, are a central part of Catholic worship. The Mass, the center of Catholic worship, usually contains a reading from the Old Testament, an epistle, a psalm which is either recited or sung, and a gospel passage.

ABS offers Scriptures with imprimaturs—an acknowledgement by a bishop that a work does not violate Catholic doctrine—and Bibles that contain the deuterocanonical books which comprise the entire Catholic version of the Old Testament.

ABS has long done outreach to Catholics, a process which began back in 1817 when it published a Spanish-language Bible with an imprimatur.

During the visit of Pope John Paul II to the U.S. in 1995, ABS donated 650,000 copies of the Gospel of John to everyone attending his Masses in New York City and Baltimore.

"Right now my goal is to establish relationships and build name recognition and create awareness of our programs," Jeanette says about her work with the Catholic community.

Recently ABS distributed Scriptures for a youth rally sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York which featured Cardinal John J. O'Connor. At that rally, 10,000 copies of the Gospel of John were distributed, 3,000 of which were in Spanish. Jeanette is also working with various dioceses to promote the *Year of the Bible* program and generate interest in the Scriptures.

Thanks to a $100,000 donation to the Society, ABS is also distributing Scriptures to every Catholic high school in the United States.

Tapping into Spiritual

BY THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

Houston is a city of energetic people — people raring to go, like cowboys who ride the broncos at the Astrodome's Livestock Show and Rodeo. Steve Shanklin of the American Bible Society wants to tap into that energy, working with Houstonians to share the Word of God in the city and the entire Southwest region.

With some of the largest churches in the country, like Houston's First Baptist Church, Lakewood Church, and Second Baptist Church, Houston offers great potential for future partnerships.

If you want to find oil, you do sonic surveying before you drill. And if you want to feel the excitement of the rodeo, you've got to get close to the action.

That's the way Steve has worked to establish the new ABS regional office, which opened in May. Steve has done extensive research to discover how ABS can best make its contribution by talking to pastors, business people, and other Christian and civic leaders. And Steve has gotten ABS very close to the action at the rodeo.

At the Livestock Show and Rodeo in February and March, behind the chutes where cowboy contestants climbed on bucking bulls or broncos, ABS tapped into the Houston spirit by co-sponsoring a hospitality room with the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys (FCC). At the hospitality room, ABS and FCC offered fellowship and God's Word in Bibles, tracts, and videos. Steve recounts that riders and ropers would "come in to pray and be encouraged."

Cowboys and cowgirls could find food and a secluded place to spend time with their families at the hospitality room. During competition, spouses could watch their husbands or wives perform on TV, and their children had a safe place to play.

You win at the rodeo by roping a calf faster, or handling the toughest ride on a bucking bronco.

ABS wins by finding programs and partners for spreading the Word. "We're really trying to be very aggressive and very focused in identifying new programs, not just trying to come in and say, 'We have all these products available, get on board,'" Steve says. "We're actually interviewing, spending time together, making... an aggressive, intentional assessment: What are the needs? Then what can we do to create an appropriate Scripture?"

Canvassing people in Houston and the surrounding region, Steve learned that ABS can help most by offering Scriptures that help peo-

Energy in the Southwest

ple improve their literacy, offer direction to young people, and provide hope to prisoners.

To meet these needs, Steve plans to have ABS volunteers trained as literacy educators, opening the Scriptures as a pathway for learning with the Word of God. ABS volunteers, he says, will donate time "in halfway homes, prisons... in after-school programs, at schools, as well as convalescent homes."

Steve kicked off his literacy support program by donating more than 3,800 children's reading resources to the Houston READ commission during a visit by ABS President Eugene B. Habecker. "We have put together a program called '*Houston's Reading the Good News*' which will provide Scriptures to existing literacy programs in Houston," Steve said.

A first priority for the Houston office will be introducing the Word to young men and women who are unfamiliar with it. Steve says: "For the most part, our young people today are not reading the Word of God. We need to develop products and programs to draw them to the Scriptures."

As part of this outreach, ABS aims to work with numerous Christian organizations and Bible clubs that serve youth in the region. ABS is already partnering with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), retired and current professional athletes with an evangelistic outreach to more than 200 schools in Houston. "We're working with FCA to develop special resources that target kids," says Steve.

ABS will also work harder to bring God's Word to Texas' prison population, one of the largest in the United States. Steve says that ABS plans to create special Scriptures for use by Prison Fellowship Ministries and other Christian groups, working in Texas prisons.

When Steve Shanklin surveys Houston and the Southwest, he sees millions of opportunities to share God's Word.

ABS already provides special Scripture materials for use in Prison Fellowship's "Angel Tree" program each Christmas season. The Angel Tree initiative gives support and guidance to children of inmates.

Opening the American Bible Society's regional office here is a sort of homecoming for Steve, a native of Houston who earned his master's degree

at Houston's Gregoreo Bible College. Before joining ABS, he coordinated national events for Promise Keepers, a Christian men's group dedicated to spiritual growth and racial reconciliation. At the Houston office, Steve works with Ministry Representative Matthew Diehl, who recruits volunteers and offers ABS partnerships and products to churches and bookstores in the Southwest.

Even before the ABS Houston office officially opened, Steve was seizing opportunities to serve heritage groups in the city. In February, the city government invited ABS to take part in Black History Month. ABS sponsored a youth choir, and distributed 2,500 brochures about the heritage of African Americans who spread God's Word through working with the American Bible Society.

"The Bible has played a vital part in African-American life," Steve says. "Reading the Scriptures sustained hope for African Americans bound in slavery and gave guidance for life in freedom."

In June, ABS will coordinate a special "Juneteenth" celebration, which will mark the anniversary of the liberation of slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865. Steve sees this as a great opportunity to remind African Americans that the Bible has had a powerful influence in their march to freedom and their present life. This is all part of a larger ABS goal, "to build long-lasting relationships with African Americans and the African American community," says Steve.

He is also investigating the best way to provide the Scriptures for Hispanics in the region. Recently, Steve has also started to work with Dr. Katharine Hsu, a longtime supporter of ABS, to build partnerships with Chinese churches in the Houston area.

With some of the largest churches in the country, like Houston's First Baptist Church, Lakewood Church, and Second Baptist Church, Houston offers great potential for future partnerships. Steve made a presentation to Mission Houston, a coalition of 300 churches in the area, about partnering to provide Scriptures.

There are also strong para-church organizations in Houston, and ABS is exploring opportunities to join with them in outreach. Steve also is working with Somebody Cares Houston, an interdenominational ministry outreach, to print and distribute as many as 500,000 New Testaments.

Steve Shanklin says, "It's a big city; it's a big vision that we have." He adds, the Southwest is "too big for one organization to evangelize alone — we must work with partners." He wants all of Houston and the Southwest to know: "ABS is here to make a difference."

FOR THE RECORD

100 YEARS AGO

Sunday School Suggestion

The July 1899 *Record* printed a letter from Dr. Law of Spartanburg, S.C., which told this story:

A family in North Carolina was putting some money for Japan in a "missionary box." Two of the family's young boys asked to include Scriptures as their contribution. The boys wrote their names on the New Testament, put it in the box, and sent it to Japan.

The New Testament reached the hands of a Japanese boy, Adachi, and was the means of his conversion. Later, Adachi visited Asheville, N.C., and spoke at a Methodist church there. He described the New Testament's impact, and mentioned the names in it. Milton Bailey, one of the boys Adachi named, was at that service, and introduced himself to Adachi.

Adachi returned to Japan, where he became a "Christian laborer." Dr. Law urged that each Sunday school student should contribute 5 cents for Bible work—enough to buy a New Testament for a destitute child.

50 YEARS AGO

Breakfast-tray Scriptures

On Easter 1949, more than 20,000 hospital patients received copies of the Gospel of John on their breakfast trays, as part of an ABS initiative.

The July 1949 *Record* reported how hospitals in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan were invited to join in this Scripture distribution. The response was overwhelming. One official in Logansport, Ind., wrote:

"I think it is by far one of the best things I have ever known in my years of hospital administration. If there ever was a time for the need of Christianity in the hearts and minds of people, it is now. We are truly appreciative."

One hand is enough to hold a gospel Portion.

Moved by a Pastor's Plight

"Happy Birthday Jesus!" sang the children as they gathered in the home of Nellie Bicksler, the state coordinator for South Carolina. "Aunt Nellie," as she is affectionately known, has been a volunteer with the American Bible Society for more than 40 years. The children then went to offer Scriptures to residents and patients of the local nursing home and hospitals.

Nellie Bicksler

Nellie's connection with ABS began when her cousin, who was an ABS volunteer, passed Nellie's name to the Society. Nellie got a call from the head of volunteers, who asked her to be a speaker for ABS. Nellie says, "I guess the Lord said, 'Do it.'" Today, 40 years later, she continues to serve the Society by touching the lives of the children in her community.

Love for Bible

Nellie received her first Bible when she was 12, and she has kept alive her youthful love of Scripture ever since. No wonder she grew up to distribute Bibles and Scripture resource materials in her service to the Society.

Nellie and her army of 200 ABS volunteers are now busy planning a Countywide Youth Outreach. It hardly matters that Nellie feels that she does not speak the language of youth. What is important is that the language of the Bible is timeless and eternal.

Psalm 91—"The Lord Is My Fortress"—is Nellie's favorite part of Scripture. "I live by that," she says. The Psalm begins:

Live under the protection
of God Most High
and stay in the shadow
of God All-Powerful.

Soup Kitchen Support

Nellie recently met Pastor Samuel Thompson, who was distributing handwritten Scriptures to the visitors of his church's soup kitchen in Clover, S.C. Moved by Pastor Thompson's plight, Nellie gave him all the Scriptures in her display booth. She then immediately requested a Scripture Grant from ABS for the soup kitchen.

These are some of the ways in which Nellie Bicksler carries out her work as a state coordinator for the American Bible Society.

Nellie says she's "made many, many friends" through ABS. And her life parallels Psalm 92, the one following her favorite:

Good people will prosper...
They will be like trees
that stay healthy and fruitful,
even when they are old.
And they will say about you,
"The Lord always does right!
God is our mighty rock!"

VOLUNTEER AWARD OF MERIT

The Rev. Jerry Statler, a retired United Methodist pastor in Missouri, has never really left the ministry. For the past few years he has kept busy in service as an ABS volunteer.

Rev. Statler, who also serves part-time on the staff of Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, now manages more than 18 counties in southeast Missouri as an Area Coordinator.

A graduate of Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Mo., Rev. Statler served as an associate pastor and pastor for United Methodist churches throughout the state, including service in Hannibal, Perryville, and St. Louis, among other cities. He and his wife, Betty, currently make their home in Cape Girardeau. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

THE REV. JERRY STATLER

He says the highlight of his volunteer experience was in promoting the *Contemporary English Version* Bible. "I have had a most rewarding time," he says.

Rev. Statler has a fierce love for God's Word that spills over into the lives of those he encounters in his ministry. He has personally placed a *Year of the Bible* packet into the hands of every United Methodist pastor in Missouri. He attends ABS-sponsored conventions, distributes Scripture resource materials at Southeast Missouri State College, and has participated in many Good News meetings and gatherings which promote the mission of ABS.

Rev. Statler was recently honored for his dedication with the ABS Volunteer Award of Merit Certificate.

'God Is the Faithful One'

Richard G. Castor's history with ABS started in the 1950s when he was working with a group of Sea Scouts on Long Island. They showed a strong interest in spiritual matters, so he started—with their parents' approval—a Bible study.

Some of the boys belonged to a Russian Orthodox church, and one of the scouts was the son of the church's pastor. The pastor invited Mr. Castor to meet him at his church. The Russian priest embraced Mr. Castor and thanked him for the work he was doing with the boys. Then he asked for Russian-language Scriptures.

RICHARD G. CASTOR

Mr. Castor relayed the request to ABS. The Society had dual-language Russian-English Bibles, and Mr. Castor and the boys picked them up and drove them from Bible House to the church in Sea Cliff, N.Y.

Mr. Castor, now a resident of Chadds Ford, Pa., is the president of Interstate Risk Management Corp. and joined the ABS Board of Trustees in 1972. He has served on the Finance Committee and now works on the Development Committee and the National and International Partnerships and Grants Committee. He has found this service "fascinating," and appreciates the wide range and the dynamism of Christians who work with him.

An Episcopalian, Mr. Castor has developed a keen love of God's Word. Recent events in his life have brought him insights on the Scriptures. He went through a few years of very serious sickness, which deepened his appreciation for the Psalms. Galatians 6.14—which includes St. Paul's statement that "I will never brag about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (*CEV*)—is, he says, very important to him now.

Mr. Castor sums up what he's learned: "We often think of ourselves as being faithful to the cause. But I've come to realize, God is the faithful one."

A Salsa Celebration: Easter Saturday in Miami

Lead Richie Ray singer Samuel Prieto Luis

ABS volunteers distribute thousands of English and Spanish New Testaments

Above: Nicky Cruz preaches from the heart; Below: Richie Ray at the keyboard

A concertgoer displays a Spanish Scripture calendar she recieved .

The weather was hot, but the music was hotter in Miami's Bayfront Park on April 3. Richie Ray, the Salsa King, came to play, and Nicky Cruz gave witness at the Extreme Faith Concert.

The more than 6,000 concert-goers sought shade wherever they could find it in the mostly open-air ampitheatre, but they stayed through the afternoon to hear the salsa sounds of Richie Ray and Victor "Puchi" Colón, Xariz Orchestra, 95 Norte Orchestra, and Federico Colloca. Nicky Cruz related his spiritual journey from gang leader to gospel preacher.

At the concert, American Bible Society volunteers offered the Word, distributing 15,000 Spanish and 10,000 English New Testaments.

TRY DOING TWO THINGS AT ONCE!

Two very important things, that is! Establish an American Bible Society Gift Annuity and you enhance your financial security while you help to share God's Word with the world. Few gift options allow you the chance to do so much good for others while adding to your own self-sufficiency. Join the community of American Bible Society annuitants, who since 1843 have helped to keep God's Word alive and active!

In return for your irrevocable gift of $1,000 or more, you will receive an excellent annuity rate and a secure lifetime income with immediate and long-term tax advantages.

You can receive ***Bringing Good Things to You,*** a free brochure explaining the Bible Society's annuity program. Simply fill out and return this form, or call us toll-free at **1-800-820-6227.**

❑ **Please send my free copy of *Bringing Good Things to You.***
❑ **Please have an ABS Representative contact me.**

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UPDATE

ABS NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA

In preparation for the Sydney Olympics in July 2000, the Bible Society of Australia has published a second edition of its Sports New Testament titled "Towards the Goal."

The new publication features profiles and testimonies from 16 famous athletes, including tennis players Michael Chang and Margaret Court, and stars from cricket, horse racing, and rugby, all of whom proclaimed their belief in the Bible. Mr. Chang, an American, and Ms. Court, a former Australian tennis champion, both appear in television and radio spots promoting the New Testament.

"Christian sports people know that their success does not depend on their sporting ability alone, but on their relationship with God and the hope and security that brings," said Ms. Court, now a pastor of a church in Western Australia.

She credited her Biblical faith with her personal recovery from a heart condition in 1979. "One verse that really kept me going is Galatians 2.20: 'I have died, but Christ lives in me. And now I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me' (*CEV*)."

Fiji children look over new Bible comic.

FIJI

"God's Multicoloured Family" is the title of a new Bible comic produced by the Human Concerns Texts Committee of the Asia-Pacific Region. The comic helps readers understand what the Bible teaches about attitudes towards people of other cultures. The goal is to promote harmony in culturally-diverse Fiji.

Thanks to the support of the Bible Society in Australia, 5,000 copies of the Bible comic have been printed and distributed.

JAMAICA

Some Jamaicans think it is needed. Others believe it trivializes Holy Scripture. But there is no denying the impact of the Jamaican patois audio Scriptures.

The first Scripture cassette in the New Testament series "A Who Run Tings?" ("Who Is in Charge?") was launched in 1996 and received wide media coverage on the island.

Some newspaper columnists condemned it for what they called trivializing the Scriptures by taking them out of a traditional English format into Jamaican patois, an offshoot of English spoken by many on the island.

But Courtney Stewart, general secretary of the Bible Society of the West Indies, defended the use of patois Scriptures.

"Scriptures have the most far-reaching impact when heard in one's heart language," he said, noting that Jamaican patois is the first-language not only for many Jamaicans on the island but also for many Jamaican immigrants in the U.S., Canada, Britain, and other islands in the West Indies.

Another aim, said Mr. Stewart, is to remind people of God's power. Gang-related crime has increased in Jamaica, activity often coordinated by leaders who assert their rights with a popular saying: "A me run tings."

Said Mr. Stewart, "We hope that when people hear these samples of the Gospel, they will realize God is still very much in control of things, and not the local gangs."

ENGLAND

The United Bible Societies (UBS) office in Reading notes that the Bible has been translated into 2,212 of the world's estimated 6,500 languages. In its Scripture Language Report, issued each year, UBS noted that the Bible, or parts of it, is now available for the majority of the world's population.

Last year, UBS printed Bibles for the first time in three languages: the Baoule Bible in Ivory Coast (250,000 speakers); the Konkomba Bible in Ghana (450,000 speakers), and a Kirghiz Bible for the central Asian nation of Kirgyzstan (2.5 million).

A total of 20 new languages—including Algonquin in Canada and seven of Papua New Guinea's dialects—were also included in New Testaments for the first time last year.

UBS is currently involved in 685 Bible translations around the world.

VIETNAM

St. Francis Church in Ho Chi Minh City was the site for a celebration of the new Vietnamese Bible.

Until this year, only the New Testament, published in 1993, had been available to the more than 6 million Vietnamese Christians, most of whom are Catholics. Archbishop Pham Minh Man of Ho Chi Minh City said the new translation will help "open wide the entrance to the Holy Bible for everybody."

The project was begun in 1971. Three years later, the Bible Society in Vietnam sponsored a month-long translation workshop for both Protestant and Catholic scholars, work which was disrupted temporarily by the Communist takeover of the country.

The first print run of the new Bible was 25,000 copies. The goal is to get the Scriptures into the homes of all of Vietnam's Christians.

NEW ZEALAND

Prisoners around the English-speaking world are planting sycamore trees as part of a Bible-based program in restorative justice.

The Sycamore Tree Project, an initiative based on the Gospel story of Zacchaeus and his encounter with Jesus (Luke.19.1-10), concludes with the planting of a sycamore tree on prison grounds. (In the Gospel story, Zaccheus, a tax collector and sinner of short stature, climbed a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus walk through a crowd).

The program, sponsored by Prison Fellowship International, focuses on Bible reading and carefully planned discussions between offenders and crime victims. Each outreach concludes, as the Gospel story did, with a celebration.

Pilot programs have begun at the women's prison near Wellington, New Zealand, as well as men's prisons in Dorset, England, and Houston, Texas.

Participants in New Zealand Sycamore Tree Project.

Bible Society Aids Kosovo Refugees

Altin Hysi, executive secretary of the Interconfessional Bible Society in Albania, recently closed down his office in Tirana, the capital.

Mr. Hysi and his colleagues took that drastic step so they could become directly involved in assisting the thousands of ethnic Albanians from the embattled Kosovo region.

"All the refugees are disillusioned, and so many are in need of the comforting Word of God," he said.

Treasure Serves Biblical Riches

Carol and Gail Dunning, with model of Solomon's Temple.

Metaphor for Christian living in Solomon's Temple

It's not surprising that Dr. Gail Dunning, a retired pastor and psychologist, is an annuitant with the American Bible Society. It's his way of putting his money where his life is.

Dr. Dunning, 75, has held Bible classes in his home throughout his life. He has constructed a model of King Solomon's Temple, and speaks frequently about the connection between that building and the Christian community. And he still presents the gospel regularly as a fill-in preacher in churches near his Louisburg, Mo., home.

"I've loved the ABS for many years," he told the *Record* in a recent interview. "It's doing what no one else will do," he says, noting the Society's commitment to spreading the Bible in forms everyone can afford and understand.

He and his wife, Carol, have given away some 80 copies of the American Bible Society *Contemporary English Version* Scriptures, its most recent translation. He's found that there's always a return on those gifts.

They gave one Bible to a woman who, in turn, gave it to an imprisoned nephew. Impressed by the Biblical message and the easy-to-read *CEV* style, the prisoner has started a daily Bible reading in his cellblock.

Dr. Dunning is not your typical Bible reader in other ways, too. He is, rather, an amateur Biblical scholar, taking in all the nuances and perspectives he can find on the Scriptures.

It's his style to be thorough. When he served as a pastor, he found himself frequently counseling troubled church members. The result: he was driven to earn himself a doctorate in psychology from the University of Nebraska.

He is frequently in conversation with ABS Biblical scholar Dr. Barclay Newman, who works nearby in the ABS Springfield, Mo., offices. Dr. Dunning and his wife devote time to Bible reading, meditating on up to 10 translations so that "we can see shades of meaning."

One of Dr. Dunning's greatest Biblical passions is Solomon's Temple, a subject he frequently lectures about. He describes the temple as "a model of the church and heaven."

The eating areas, candles, incense, and the Ark of the Covenant of the ancient Jerusalem Temple all have their counterparts in Christian life. The temple had one feature in particular which needs to be reawakened in modern American life, according to Dr. Dunning.

"One must deal with one's sin before coming to God," Dr. Dunning says, noting the old Temple custom of sacrifice and atonement, a major feature of ancient Hebrew prayer life. Today's Christians, he says, could use a similar emphasis on repentance.

It's just one of many insights he has gleaned from a lifetime of Bible reading. And Dr. Dunning's pledge to the ABS gift annuity program guarantees that such insights will be shared with future generations.

One way to support ABS' Scripture distribution work is through our gift annuity program. For more information, contact the ABS Planned Giving toll-free number at 1-800-820-6227.

CROSSING BORDERS

◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Jordan and supports an interfaith youth movement of about 7,000 students. "Christians comprise only 4 percent of the population here," says Jamal. "So it is a practical necessity that we work together." The Bible Society board includes members from Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox churches. Several of those board members are so enthusiastic about the Bible Society mission that they buy Bibles to distribute on their own.

Board member Elias Zananiri, a businessman in Amman, has found it best to share the Scriptures quietly, in the privacy of his office. He says, "Ninety-eight per cent of my customers are non-Christians. After sharing the Scriptures with them privately, many will ask me for a Bible."

Girls at a Roman Catholic school in Damascus.

But the bigger opportunity for the Bible Society in Jordan lies a thousand kilometers to the east, in Baghdad. The society shipped seven van-loads of Bibles to Baghdad in 1998—more than 7,000 Bibles, 372,250 New Testaments, and nearly 125,000 Portions. It used to take up to eight months to get the necessary permissions—a process involving the governments of Iraq and Jordan, and the United Nations. "Its much easier now," says Jamal. "We have their confidence—they know us."

"Last year, at the huge book fair in Baghdad, we saw people lining up 45 and 50 deep to buy Bibles," says Jamal. "In 56 hours we sold seven tons of Scriptures." Of the 55 publishers exhibiting at the fair, the Bible Society came in first in sales, in a country where less than five percent of the people are Christian.

Jamal says the U.N. economic sanctions on Iraq have generated staggering needs. Published material of any sort is rare and valued. One Protestant church he visited had one Bible for a congregation of 1,000. And the one Bible was missing the first pages of Genesis.

In partnership with relief agencies, individual churches, and donors, the Bible Society often offers physical aid, such as a bag of dried milk, with the Scriptures that they distribute. Jamal feels an urgency to respond to Iraq's new openness because the future there seems so uncertain "When we bring 50 Children's Bibles for 1,000 kids, we are asked, 'Why don't you bring more?' All we can say is, 'We're doing the best we can,'" Jamal laments.

In a small breakthrough, the Bible Society recently received permission to distribute 200,000 New Testaments in the Christian schools.

Labib Madanat, Executive Secretary for the Bible Society on the West Bank, says that his region faces great suffering and hopelessness.

Jamal Hashweh, Executive Secretary of the Bible Society in Jordan, talks with customers at the Bible Society booth during the ten-day book fair held in Amman last October.

The Catolicos of the Armenian Orthodox Church (Cilicia), while in Beirut, spoke of the churches' "partnership" with the Bible Society. He said, "Bible Societies work with, not in parallel to, the churches. We are partners in one and the same mission of God," which, he said, is "taking the good news to the world..."

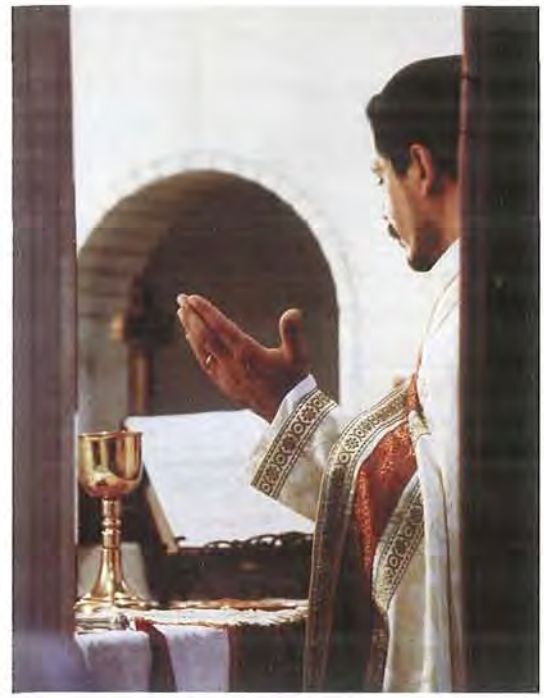
What he wants the one million captive Palestinians to hear is, "Hey guys, there's somebody who loves you." And he works to find ways to get that message across. He says, "Every non-Christian has the right to encounter the personal Jesus."

His simple ads, placed on the back page of Palestinian newspapers, have struck a chord with hundreds. The ads quote a few Scripture verses about life issues—loving your spouse, changing negative attitudes, forgiveness—and list the Bible Society address.

Labib works to build relations with schools, families, libraries, churches—everyone seems to know him. When he asked the Islamic University in Gaza to include Bibles in its library, it did. The mayor of Gaza invited Labib to open a Christian section in each of the public libraries.

"Palestinians are interested in other religions," says Labib. "They are willing to question traditional authority. They are open to change."

However, like other Bible Societies, the greatest impact occurs in partnership with churches. Father Emile Salayta, director for the 43 Catholic schools for both Palestine and Jordan, and Labib have slowly expanded their friendship into areas of ministry. For a first project, the Bible Society provided 1,000 quality Bibles, at half price, for Father Emile's students to distribute door-to-door. They took Bibles to Christians of varying traditions, and through the ensuing discussions, Father Emile says, got a valuable education.



Bible Societies throughout the Middle East meet the Scripture needs of many diverse congregations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Coptic, and Protestant. Pictured is a priest presiding at the service of an Aramaic-speaking congregation in an Orthodox church near Damascus, Syria.

For the year 2000, Father Emile wants to distribute a Bible to every Christian family in Palestine, Israel, and Gaza—10,000 Bibles in all. But he will need to find someone else to fund it.

Labib says that, in the Middle East where people have run out of solutions and are searching, they are responsive to a message of love, hope, and forgiveness. The Bible and Christianity, while firmly rooted in the region where it was born, frequently remains a tantalizing curiosity.

French-speaking students at a Catholic school in Beirut, Lebanon, study from Scriptures provided by the Bible Society there.

From Red Guard to Christian

Yu Cheng Kun of Wenzhou, China, spent part of his youth as a member of the Red Guards, a group inspired by Chairman Mao Zedong to destroy what the ruling Communist Party in the 1960s considered corrupting influences, which included Christianity.

The Red Guards, which Mr. Yu joined when he was 15, were responsible for destroying Bibles and churches throughout China.

But times change. And so has Mr. Yu, now the pastor of the Flower Garden Lane Church in Wenzhou and vice chairman of the Wenzhou China Christian Council.

He told photojournalist Rune Hansen that his conversion occurred after being drawn into a church meeting one day. "The love I met there changed my life," he said.

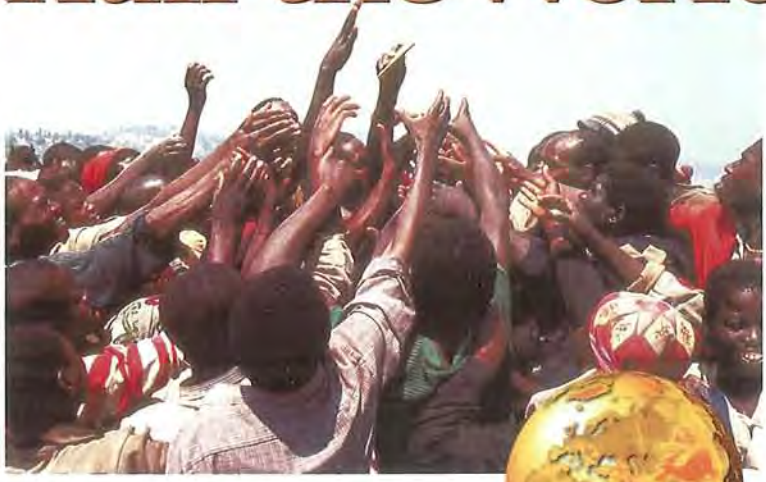
Mr. Yu, inspired by his newfound faith, spent many nights hand-copying the Bible from Genesis to Revelation because it was impossible to buy Bibles and the Red Guards were still destroying all the Scriptures they could find.

Today there is a flowering of Christian activity in China. The United Bible Societies works, through its affiliation with a Chinese printing facility named Amity Press, to print and distribute Bibles throughout the country. The result is that Mr. Yu and the people of his congregation can learn the Word of God, which, not too long ago, government repression denied them.

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

American Bible Society
Bible-a-Month Club
1865 Broadway
New York, NY
10023-7505

Half the World Is Waiting!



More than 3 BILLION people have yet to own a Bible. Over one-half of the people in Russia do not have a Bible. The number of believers in China who have never had a Bible of their own is absolutely staggering—and growing every day. And the demand in Africa is *double what we have been able to meet.*

For as little as $4 a month, you can extend your reach to these nations by providing desperately-needed Bibles to the other half of the world.

As a member of the Bible-a-Month Club, you will share the precious gift of God's Word with people in every nation who long to read the Scriptures in their own languages. Each month you'll receive an exciting update, packed with stories and testimonies of the men, women, and children who receive the Bibles you provide.

Join the Bible-a-Month Club today! Simply fill out the coupon below. Or call toll free 1-800-32-BIBLE (1-800-322-4253) for more information.

Mail this coupon along with your tax-deductible gift in the envelope included in the ABS Record. Or mail to:

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QUIET TIME

A GUIDE TO DAILY BIBLE READING AND PRAYER

Knowledge, comfort, strength, and understanding come from the regular, disciplined reading of the Bible. So here's something to help you on your journey. 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.

JULY 1999

1 Genesis 8.1-22
2 Genesis 9.1-17
3 Genesis 12.1-9
SUNDAY
4 Genesis 15.1-21
5 Genesis 17.1-14
6 Genesis 17.15-27
7 Genesis 18.1-15
8 Genesis 21.1-21
9 Exodus 3.1-12
10 Exodus 3.13-22
SUNDAY
11 Joshua 1.1-9
12 Judges 13.1-25
13 Isaiah 43.1-13
14 Isaiah 48.1-11
15 Isaiah 48.12-22
16 Isaiah 49.1-13
17 Isaiah 49.14-26
SUNDAY
18 Isaiah 50.1-11
19 Isaiah 51.1-11
20 Isaiah 51.12-23
21 Isaiah 52.1-12
22 Isaiah 52.13—53.12
23 Isaiah 54.1-10
24 Isaiah 54.11-17
SUNDAY
25 Jeremiah 30.1-11
26 Jeremiah 30.12-24
27 Jeremiah 31.23-40
28 Jeremiah 32.26-44
29 Galatians 3.15—4.7
30 Galatians 4.8-20
31 Galatians 4.21-31

AUGUST 1999

SUNDAY
1 Philippians 1.1-11
2 Philippians 1.12-30
3 Philippians 2.1-11
4 Philippians 2.12-30
5 Philippians 3.1-21
6 Philippians 4.1-23
7 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
SUNDAY
8 1 Thessalonians 2.1-16
9 1 Thessalonians 2.17—3.13
10 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
11 1 Thessalonians 4.13—5.11
12 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28
13 2 Thessalonians 1.1-12
14 2 Thessalonians 2.1-17
SUNDAY
15 2 Thessalonians 3.1-18
16 1 Timothy 1.1-11
17 1 Timothy 1.12-20
18 1 Timothy 2.1-15
19 1 Timothy 3.1-16
20 1 Timothy 4.1-16
21 1 Timothy 5.1-25
SUNDAY
22 1 Timothy 6.1-21
23 2 Timothy 1.1-18
24 2 Timothy 2.1-13
25 2 Timothy 2.14-26
26 2 Timothy 3.1-9
27 2 Timothy 3.10—4.8
28 2 Timothy 4.9-22
SUNDAY
29 Titus 1.1-16
30 Titus 2.1-15
31 Titus 3.1-15

PLEASE PRAY

The readers of the Record— May our readers look to the Scriptures for inspiration when facing life crises.

Peace in the Middle East— That Christians, Muslims, and Jews find ways to live in harmony in the land where Jesus walked, preached, and healed.

Catholic youth— That the retreat program sponsored by the American Bible Society will provide new ways for Catholic young people to affirm the Scriptures, their faith tradition, and their development in Christian living.

Bible translators— United Bible Societies has supervised the translation of the Word into 2,212 languages, about a third of the world's tongues. May the important work of translating the Bible into the languages "of the heart" among all people continue so that all can have access to God's Word.

The ABS Houston office— May this new outreach to the people of the Southwest become a beacon of faith promoting renewed interest in the Scriptures.

Travelers— Pray that God protect all those who will journey with their families this summer and that the opportunity for leisure provide opportunities to renew spiritual life.

The people of the Balkans— Pray for an end to "ethnic cleansing" and for lasting peace—with justice for all groups—in Serbia and Kosovo.

IN MEMORIAM

MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE BY HELPING TO PROVIDE BIBLES TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T YET HAVE ONE

JEAN ARMSTRONG
Given by: Mrs. Frona Davis

JEAN ARMSTRONG AND MARTHA & MATTIE FLECK
Given by: Mrs. Mary Felts

MY MOTHER, DAGNY GUNDERSEN AUS
Given by: Ms. Martha Erickson

MY SON, DAVID K. BACHMANN AND MY HUSBANDS, KARL A. & NORMAN W.
Given by: Mrs. Elinor M. Bachmann

MY SISTER-IN-LAW, REBECCA BAKER
Given by: Mrs. Anna F. Zieger

FREDERICK M. & ELAINE H. BALLINGER
Given by: The Estate of Elaine H. Ballinger

DR. DEWEY M. BEEGLE
Given by: Mrs. Marion Beegle & Family

MY FATHER, MYRLE BLY
Given by: Mr. Ronald P. Bly

MY UNCLE, JOSEPH BUDAJ
Given by: Mrs. Patricia Nutt

SAMPSON VRYLING STODDARD WILDER & VRYLING WILDER BUFFUM
Given by: The Estate of Margaret V. V. Buffum

SANDY CASADY
Given by: Bill & Merrlyn Seefeldt

MY HUSBAND, ENID M. CLAPP
Given by: Mrs. Emma J. Clapp

MY FATHER, JERE LAWRENCE CROOK, JR.
Given by: Mr. Senter Crook

MY PARENTS, MR. & MRS. MERRILL CROWELL
Given by: Mrs. Marilyn C. Seely

MY DAUGHTER, VIRGINIA A. DAIGLE AND MY WIFE, LOUISE M. ROSENBROCK
Given by: Mr. Kenneth A. Rosenbrock

GWYNN DAY
Given by: The Guynn Day Class of the First Baptist Church

MY PARENTS, EVELYN & RUFUS DUMOND
Given by: Mrs. John Morris

EDNA STALLINGS EASTMAN
Given by: Dr. & Mrs. R. W. (Buddy) Haywood

MY HUSBAND, GEORGE F. EICHHORST
Given by: Mrs. Iraline Eichhorst

BOB & FLORENCE ELDRED
Given by: Curtis H. & Mildred V. Eldred

MARY EMILY EVANS
Given by: Mrs. Joseph J. Babis

MY SISTER, MARTHA FLECK
Given by: Ms. Kate C. Thacker

MY HUSBAND, JOHN FLETCHER
Given by: Mrs. Margaret Fletcher

VICTORIA FRANCO
Given by: Miss Mary Fontana Rosa

MARGARET CRADDOCK FRANZ
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. David A. Franz

CHARLOTTE GALBARI
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schumacher

MY HUSBAND, HERMAN PAUL GAY
Given by: Mrs. Anna Belle Gay

CLAUDIO FOCI & ANTONIO GIARRATANA
Given by: Miss Marie Antoinetta Overmyer

MY PARENTS, GEORGE & ELAINE GILES AND MY GRANDFATHER, LLOYD E. ROBERTS
Given by: Mr. Craig R. Giles

BILL GODWIN
Given by: Mrs. Ruth Turner Pope

ELMER H. GRABER
Given by: Family & Friends

MY AUNT, MILDRED GRAVES
Given by: Mrs. Jeanine Bussey

MRS. ELLA HAM AND MR. & MRS. CARL KUEHNEMUND
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Calvert W. Cravath

MY FATHER, MARTIN HANSEN
Given by: Mr. Henry Hansen

MY WIFE, WILMA HARRIS
Given by: Mr. Carl F. Harris

OLGA HARTE
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stephens

MY WIFE, DOROTHY S. HEPP
Given by: Mr. George C. Hepp

DOROTHY HILL
Given by: Don & Ethel Joiner

MY HUSBAND, CAPTAIN WALTER C. HITCHENS, CHC, USN
Given by: Mrs. Margaret R. Winner

MY HUSBAND, THE REV. CLARK HOLT
Given by: Mrs. Mary J. Holt

MY WIFE, VERNA JOHNSON
Given by: Mr. Francis E. Johnson, Sr.

ALEXANDER JUSTUS
Given by: Du Page Radiologists, S.C.

WALTER F. KLOSTER & LUCILLE M. KLOSTER
Given by: The Estate of Walter Kloster

MY MOTHER, ADELINE LAPOINT
Given by: Miss June L. LaPoint

JOHN LAPRAD
Given by: Family & Friends

CARTER C. LASSITER
Given by: Jim & Betty Royal

ARTHUR & ALMA LEE
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Pratt

GERTRUDE LESLIE
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Harold Leslie, Clara Curry and Mabel Slaven

THE REV. ALVIN G. LEWIS, SR.
Given by: Mr. Alvin G. Lewis, Jr.

THE REV. ALVIN G. LEWIS, SR.
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. William C. Lewis

CLARA LIESHE
Given by: Mr. Gerald J. Arndt

MRS. FLOSSIE WIBLIN LUCHESEA
Given by: Mr. Earl G. Bowen

REV. MICHAEL MARKHAM
Given by: Myrtle L. Atkinson Foundation

EMILY MAU AND OUR SON, DANIEL
Given by: Kevin & Diane Roever

JAMES E. (JIM) MCCRAW
Given by: Mrs. Lee E. McCraw

WILMA MEIER
Given by: Salem L.W.M.L.

OUR BROTHER, AMEDEY MOLLICA
Given by: Gloria & Mike Croft

HERBERT NELSON
Given by: Mrs. Penne Nelson Caswell

CLARENCE D. NICHOLSON, ANDREW & ANNA ROSKOS, & LOVED ONES
Given by: The Mary Nicholson Estate & Trust

IVAN NOTHDURFT
Given by: Peter & Nancy Hilty

DR. IVAN H. NOTHDURFT
Given by: Family & Friends

MY HUSBAND, IVAN H. NOTHDURFT
Given by: Mrs. Lorla Nothdurft

DR. IVAN H. NOTHDURFT
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Steven Lashley

OUR MOTHER, SARAH OLIVERI
Given by: Mr. Emanuel Oliveri and Mrs. Theresa Valentiano

MY COUSIN, GALINA N. PAVLOVA
Given by Mrs. Galina Gomberg

MY PARENTS, THE REV. JAMES G. & VIVIAN K. PENLINGTON
Given by: Mrs. Colleen V. Biffen

JOSEPHINE R. PETERS
Given by: Sherwood R. & Harvette Peters

MY HUSBAND, RALPH PLENGE
Given by: Mrs. Irene Plenge

MY WIFE, LOUISE F. PULIS
Given by: Mr. John L. Pulis

VILMA RICHERT
Given by: Mrs. Donald Albin

PRESTON L. SAGER
Given by: Mrs. Viola R. Sager

ELIZABETH KASPRZYK SANKO
Given by: Zosia Edwards Stege

HALDIS SCAMPINI
Given by: Mr. Robert G. Kellogg

LILLIE F. SCHAAR
Given by: The Rev. & Mrs. Howard H. Schaar

PAUL ALVIN SCHMIDT
Given by: Jamie & Merle Aaker

MY PARENTS, JAMES & IVA BELLE SCHOONOVER
Given by: Miss Esther Schoonover

LLOYD & FLORENCE SHIGLEY
Given by: The Estate of Florence Shigley

OUR AUNT, IRENE SIEMENS
Given by: Carl & Margaret Rigney

OSCAR V. SILVEY
Given by: Bobby L. & Maxine Sawyer

LYNN SMALL
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Ray M. Koenig

MY HUSBAND, ROBERT BLAIR SMITH
Given by: Mrs. Agnes B. Smith

PAUL C. SPITZIG
Given by: Mr. George C. Hepp

MY GRANDSON, JOHN THOMAS STEPHAN
Given by: Mrs. John T. Stephan

MY PARENTS, CHARLEY & POLLY STORRS
Given by: Mrs. Julia Strode

LORAYNE TUYLS
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Glenn W. Collaer

MRS. ELOISE W. VEATCH
Given by: Mr. Ralph S. Voris

MY AUNT, MRS. J. RUSSELL VEATCH
Given by: Miss Eloise Voris

MARGARET R. WATKINS
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Watkins

ANNA S. WELBAUM
Given by: The Rev. Arnold W. Welbaum, Family & Friends

KAREN WHITING
Given by: Calvary Baptist Church

CHARLES F. WITTMAN
Given by: Mrs. Alice Wittman & Children

PALMA WYRICH
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. F. David Capan

Memorials of $100 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in the ABS Record. *For further details about the memorial program, please write to: Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505.*