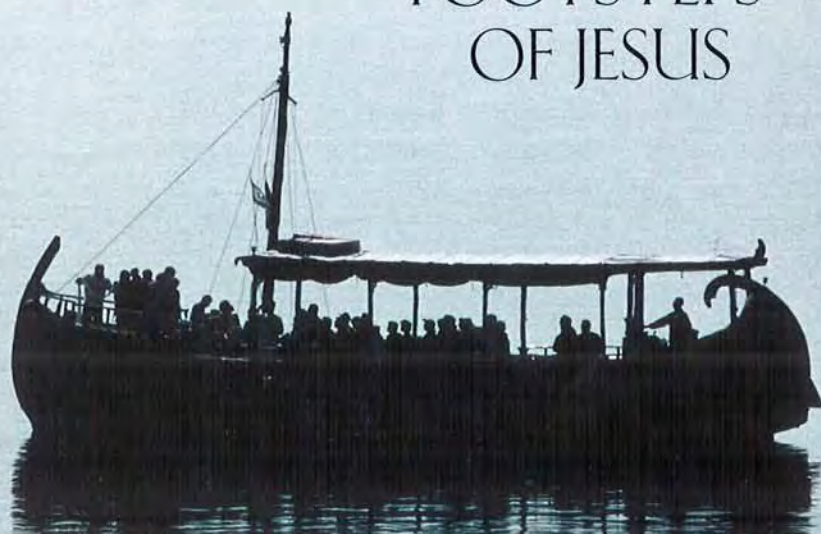


AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

June | July 2000

WALKING ON WATER: FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS



A HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE

My Prayer for Peace

Jerusalem, we pray that you will have peace, and that all will go well for those who love you. May there be peace inside your city walls and in your palaces. Psalm 122:6,7 (CEV)

Often I hear people who return from a visit to Israel exclaim, "What a thrill it was to walk where Jesus walked." Two years ago I, too, visited those Bible settings. I, too, found it inspirational to see where Jesus taught and healed and fed multitudes. For me it really put feet to the gospel.

You don't just see the sights and hear the sounds and smell the smells of Israel ... you have an experience. As you climb the steeply sloping hill across from Jerusalem's city wall, Matthew's simple words, "they went out to the Mount of Olives," brings to life the humanity of Jesus and the men who panted up the hill after him.

You walk among the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus agonized over his coming sacrifice while, nearby, his closest friends fell asleep. You feel the deep emotion of those New Testament moments.



But to talk about walking in the footsteps of Jesus is to talk about walking where the feet of God touched the earth, and walked as we walk. The disciples didn't fish in some mystical sea. They saw Jesus walk toward them on the same Galilean lake that fisherman fish from today. God's presence on earth was, and is, tangible.

Jerusalem is a bigger city now. The first time I saw from across the Kidron Valley, I remembered another agony Jesus suffered, probably from the same vantage point—an agony that remains real and unanswered.

Luke writes that as the city came into view, Jesus cried, "It is too bad that today your people don't know what will bring them peace!"

The division and quiet desperation I sensed in this holy city, where the three great monotheistic faiths vie for breathing space, is not always apparent. However, M-16 rifles, swinging under the arms of young soldiers patrolling its narrow corridors, suggest that peace has not come to Jerusalem—even after thousands of years.

In nearby Bethlehem, now under Palestinian control, residents must leave their vehicles, and, for reasons of security, must cross the divide with Israel on foot. For Palestinians who can find work only in Israel, it is a de-meaning transportation nightmare.

Strife still abounds in this holiest of cities, the setting of resurrection hope and triumph.

I will never stop praying for peace in Jerusalem. For when peace comes there it may signify that all people will have made their peace with the Prince of Peace. 

Eugene B. Habecker

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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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ON THIS PAGE: Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, above center, and, at bottom, worshipers at Western Wall in Jerusalem. (Photos by David Singer)



ON THE COVER: Boat on Lake Galilee. Cover inset photos: Orthodox Jewish man at Western Wall in Jerusalem, top, and begging woman and child in Jerusalem, bottom. (Photos by David Singer)

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Telephone: (212) 408-8710. Reach ABS on
the web at www.americanbible.org

Bryant Kirkland, ABS Past President, Dies



Rev. Bryant M.
Kirkland

The Rev. Bryant M. Kirkland, longtime board member and past president of the American Bible Society, died of heart failure on April 23, Easter Sunday, in Charlottesville, Va. He was 85.

Dr. Kirkland had served on the ABS board since 1962, and was the first to hold the newly-formed position of President/CEO from 1990 to 1991. From 1962 to 1987, Dr. Kirkland was senior minister at The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York.

Renowned for his preaching, he was a pastor in churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Oklahoma, and was a lecturer in homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey from 1981 to 1990.

At an April 26 memorial service for ABS staff in New York City, Dr. Kirkland was remembered for his sharp mind and his human touch. Each Friday during his tenure as ABS president he would visit each floor of Bible House in New

York and wish everyone a happy weekend.

"He could zero in on the main issues faster than any human being I have ever seen," said Sally Shoemaker Robinson, ABS board chairman, who credited Dr. Kirkland for much of the language behind various ABS mission statements through the years.

Dr. Eugene Habecker, who succeeded Dr. Kirkland as ABS president, noted that his mentor had "a great capacity for friendship and to love people."

Born in Essex, Conn., Dr. Kirkland was a graduate of Wheaton College in Illinois, Princeton Seminary, and Eastern Baptist Seminary.

He was married to Bernice Eleanor Tanis for 55 years. She died in 1996. In 1998, he married Lola Mae Kirkland.

Dr. Kirkland is survived by his widow and three daughters, Nancy Thompson, Elinor Hite, and Virginia Stuart., six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

An Extreme Faith Inspires Youthful Preacher



Kristopher Sterbinsky

*There comes a time,
There comes a time
When ev'ry young man looks out from his
father's house,
Longing for that far-off country...*

God's Trombones, James Weldon Johnson

"I had no answers, only dread," said Kristopher Sterbinsky. "I sat in my bedroom truly worried about my future and the direction that my life would take. What would I do? I asked myself."

With wisdom belying his age, the 16-year-old from Springfield, Ill., reached for ABS' *Extreme Faith Youth Bible* he had in his pocket and

thumbed the pages.

"Do you always consult the Bible for answers?" I asked incredulously. "Yes," said Kris.

Barely catching the tail end of his answer, I anxiously asked, "Did you receive an answer from God?" With an emphatic voice, Kris responded, "Yes. God answered."

Had he heard a voice? Or was it a light? Kris responded simply: "There was a persistent tugging on my heart. I felt the Lord telling me to preach."

Kris preached his first sermon last fall.

"I arrived at church late and nervous. I was rehearsing my sermon with my friends and we completely forgot the time."

He added, "When my pastor introduced me I stood up and apparently, so did my hair."

Waiting expectantly for well wishes at the end of the service, Kris was pleasantly surprised to hear everyone tell him that his hair was "sticking up in the air," as he preached. Laughing at the memory, Kris said it did not matter. "Perhaps it was a sign that God is truly with me."

—Patricia Sinclair

ASK JACQUE



JACQUELYN SAPIIE

The *Record* is proud to present our new feature, "Ask Jacquie," in which readers are encouraged to submit their questions about the Bible to Jacquelyn Sapiie, associate director of the ABS library at Bible House

in New York City. Questions can be forwarded to absrecord@americanbible.org, or Jacquelyn can be reached at 212-408-1203 or via regular mail at 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

Q: *Could you send me information about the number of chapters and verses in the various books of the Bible?*

(E.C., California)

A: Here are some Bible statistics and facts: The longest book in the Old Testament is Psalms with 150 chapters and 2,461 verses. Psalms is also the longest book in the entire Bible.

The shortest book in the Old Testament is Obadiah, with just 21 verses and a total of 670 words.

Longest New Testament book: Luke with 1,151 verses.

Shortest New Testament book: 2 John with 13 verses and 298 words. It is the shortest book in the entire Bible.

The Old Testament has approximately 647,000 words and the New Testament about 198,000 words. ■

The Scripture in New Media

Remember the audience, advises the Rev. Paul A. Soukup, a communications theorist, Jesuit priest, professor at Santa Clara University, and American Bible Society board member with a particular interest in translating the Scriptures into new media forms.

"The audience always negotiates meaning," he says. It is an adage which any translator has to be aware of, particularly in bringing biblical stories from the print-ed page into video and other forms.

For example, anyone dramatizing Scripture stories today needs to be aware of the images which Hollywood has promoted about the Bible. For example, few Americans can think of the epic figure of Moses without conjuring up the muscular, handsome visage of a young Charlton Heston.



REV. PAUL A. SOUKUP

Father Soukup appreciates how ABS video projects—such as adaptations of the Resurrection accounts, the parables of the Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son—"are faithful to the Gospel message" and avoid Hollywood clichés and distortions.

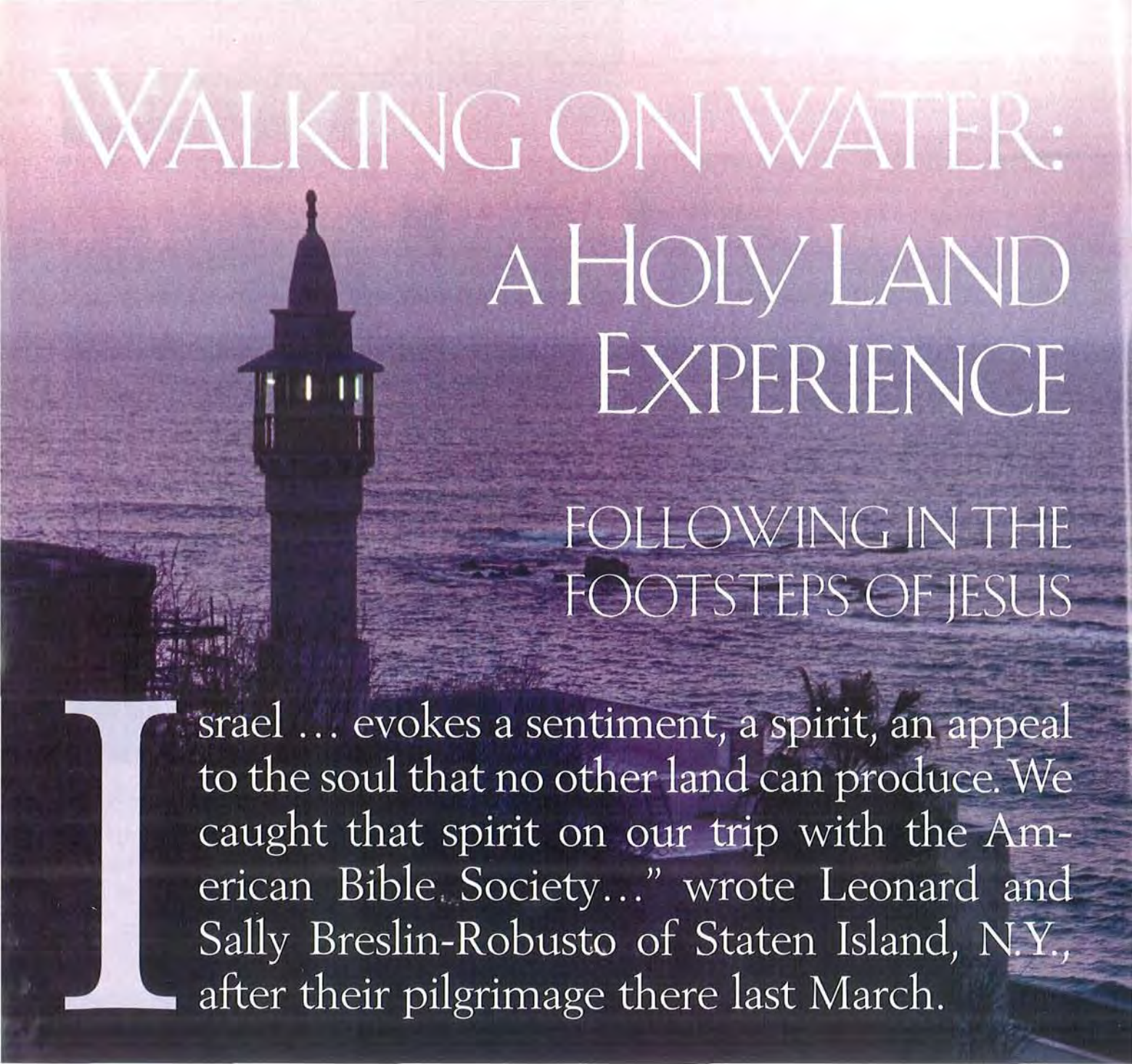
Still, the written text doesn't always provide easy answers to modern video creators. For example, Father Soukup notes, the Bible doesn't give much information about the intonation of dialogue, much of which can transform meaning.

And some forms can be attractive to some audiences while repelling others.

For example, he notes, an MTV-style music video on Scriptural themes could be attractive to young people while befuddling an older, more established church audience.

These issues Father Soukup thrashes out in his advisory role to ABS. He has co-edited two ABS books on Scripture new media translation and written scores of articles.

He expects the issues he studies will continue to grow in importance as the impact of communications technology grows. New media translation, he says, is a part of the ABS mission to offer the Bible to all by "doing everything we can to make it possible to share God's Word." ■



WALKING ON WATER: A HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Israel ... evokes a sentiment, a spirit, an appeal to the soul that no other land can produce. We caught that spirit on our trip with the American Bible Society..." wrote Leonard and Sally Breslin-Robusto of Staten Island, N.Y., after their pilgrimage there last March.

**Overlooking the
Mediterranean at
Haifa, Israel.**

**PHOTOS AND STORY
BY DAVID SINGER**

This millennium excursion to the Holy Lands of Rome and Israel, sponsored by the American Bible Society, evoked similar responses from others that went. "The tour," wrote Jan and Mabel Dia of Brooklyn, N.Y., "took us to the beginnings and roots of our faith. We retraced some of the travels of Jesus and were awed by just being at those places where He had walked ... we could almost hear Jesus preaching the Beatitudes on the mountain."

Dorothy Rhodes of Edenton, N.C., wrote, "To follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to gaze at the Dead Sea, and to see the Bible come alive was awesome." Laura Bastian of Toledo, Ohio, said, "It would be one thing to visit the Garden of Gethsemane; it is quite another experience to listen to the gospel account of Jesus' agony as He prayed there. When you are standing where He stood, His experience becomes ... easier to relate to."

Why does retracing the life of Jesus generate such passion and awe? Few on the pilgrimage reflected much on majestic cathedrals, exotic cities, or beautiful vistas. Their zeal is more existential, intimate—a personal and reverent remembering at a lake, a river, a garden, a tomb. There is little physical evidence of Jesus and his work that remains. The miracles he worked changed lives, hearts, and history, but left few tangible traces.

The improbabilities of this person Jesus and his life, the one to whom millions of people avow devotion, contradicts everything we've come to expect of celebrities and other prominent figures of history.

Even the stage setting for Jesus' life and death drama—including a 2,000-year prologue—took place in a tiny geographical area, much of it desert. Joy Ebbert of Sacramento, Calif., wrote, "I realized how much Jesus and the disciples walked." Almost all the area Jesus traveled on foot the ABS group toured by bus in one week, riding just a few hours each day.

Like members of the ABS vision trip, millions of pilgrims each year retrace the three-year wanderings of Jesus. In the dusty town of Nazareth, it's easy to imagine the carpenter's son who never traveled far from home, never wrote a book, or built a monument. A visit to Roman ruins at Beit Shean awakens a sense of the political oppression and restiveness of an occupied territory—one in which Roman legions annihilated Jerusalem and its temple following a Jewish rebellion. All that remains of the temple today, the West or "Wailing Wall," is its foundation mount of huge stone blocks.

Jesus had no army or wealth, held no political office, nor sought political power. Following a rigged trial, he was crucified as a political agitator. His real crime was his counterculture stance toward everything that comes naturally—to inspire us to live for others and in obedience to God.



Overlooking Jerusalem and the temple mount, now crowned by Islam's Dome of the Rock, from the Mount of Olives, it's easy to picture Jesus mocking his own "triumphal entry" by choosing to ride in on a lowly, borrowed donkey.

The prophet Isaiah anticipated his coming as the Prince of Peace. But Jesus himself promised to bring division. "Don't think that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came to bring trou-

In a chapel along the Via Dolorosa commemorating the sixth Station of the Cross, where tradition holds that Jesus stumbled, Trevón Gross, ABS Vice President for Partnerships and Programs, reads from Luke, chapter 26.



ABS pilgrims in the ruins of an old synagogue in Capernaum, on Lake Galilee, where Jesus healed the centurion's servant. Right: A prayer room adjacent to the West Wall in Jerusalem. Below: Dedication of the millennium exhibition at the Bible Society of Israel.



ble, not peace. I came to turn sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law. Your worst enemies will be in your own family." (Matthew 10.34-6 CEV) Today, armed soldiers patrol the narrow passages of the old Jerusalem.

What, then, are we to believe about Jesus? Does he represent the promise of peace or of conflict?

While much about Jesus, at first glance, may seem to be filled with contradiction, it was the religious leaders of Israel—pious men who professed to be the

guardians of all that is sacred—who saw clearly the challenge of Jesus.

In part, this centered on what obedience to God requires. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment.

The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself'" (Matthew 22.37-39 CEV).

That second little phrase, love others as much as you love yourself, is what catches everyone short. On this same occa-



sion, Jesus said to his listeners: "The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses. So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else" (Matthew 23.2-3 CEV).

In contemporary lingo, Jesus was saying, "They don't walk the talk." He and the religious establishment didn't disagree about the letter of the law, just the spirit behind it. Jesus will always embarrass those who would justify themselves to God on their own merits—only Jesus can justify, can "walk the talk."

Jesus also said, "If you love your life, you will lose it. If you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life. ... If you serve me, my Father will honor you." (John 12.25, 26 CEV) Elsewhere he claims, "I am one with the father." (John 10.30 CEV)

Can anyone make such seemingly irreverent claims without stirring passions? This is the divisiveness Jesus promises. Anyone who takes God's Word to heart is left little choice. Either Jesus' claims are the outrageous results of delusion or they are true.

But if the Bible is true, Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's expectation. It was not in his life that Jesus brought peace, but in his death and resurrection.

At the headwaters of the Jordan River, near Caesarea Philippi, a member of our vision tour read from Matthew 16, which was where Jesus asked his disciples, "What do people say about the son of man?" His disciples offer up the latest scuttlebutt about their master miracle worker—speculation that Jesus is one or another of Israel's famous prophets returned to life. Jesus then turns the question to them. "But who do

you say that I am?"

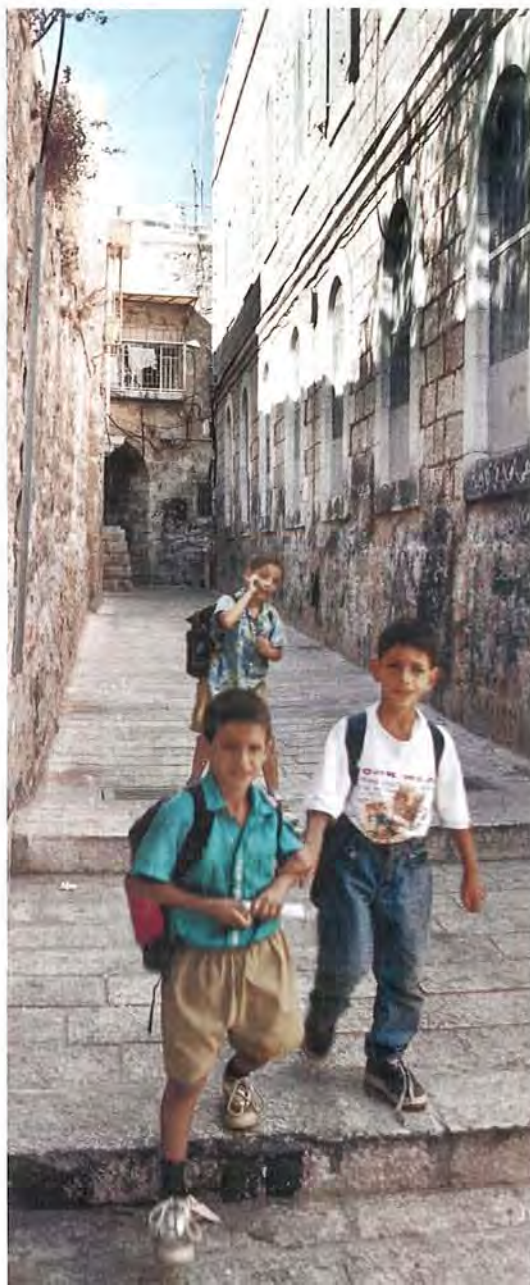
When Simon Peter answers, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus says, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn't discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven."

Peter is not blessed for getting the right answer, that Jesus makes plain. Peter is blessed because God has shown him Jesus' true identity. And this insight encompasses the substance of eternal life—the promise of internal peace—the promise of Easter.

It is at this moment, when the disciples understand, however imperfectly, who Jesus is, that Jesus begins his final journey toward Jerusalem and toward the history-changing drama of his death and resurrection. Following these footsteps is what enraptures all pilgrim believers. ■



ABS pilgrims saw the distribution of Bible Society materials to millennium pilgrims in Rome and Israel as part of the Bible Society's worldwide Opportunity 21 outreach. Above: At the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome a nun passes out a Bible Society Gospel of Luke printed in four languages—Italian, German, English, and Spanish.



Left: A street in the old city, Jerusalem.



Lower left: Doran Even Ari, executive secretary of the Bible Society of Israel, shows an ABS tour member a model of the Gutenberg press that forms the cornerstone of the Bible Society's millennium exhibition on the history of the Scriptures.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS SHED LIGHT ON WORLD OF JESUS

**A
glimpse
into early
Christian
life**



As scholars continue to pore over the Dead Sea Scrolls, the image we have of the world of Jesus continues to be transformed.

The Scrolls, found in various bits between 1947 and 1956 in seven sites

Jewish groups at the time of Jesus, along with the Pharisees and the Scribes, says Dr. VanderKam, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

"They would refer to the Pharisees by an expression that means, 'those who seek smooth things,' or the easy way out," Dr. VanderKam says.

"The scrolls, documents roughly contemporary with New Testament texts, by opening up for us a Jewish community and the way it lived and thought, throw light on aspects of the world of the first Christians in an unprecedented way," he says.

So, the Essenes, who, like other Jews, looked for the coming of the Messiah, chose a separatist existence while they waited. They favored stricter interpretation of Jewish law.

In one gospel story, the Pharisees challenged Jesus for healing a man with a withered hand as working on the Sabbath.

Jesus asked if they would lift a sheep that had fallen into a ditch on the Sabbath. If they can help a beast, how much more acceptable is it to help a person?

The Pharisees in that passage from the Gospel of Matthew and other similar gospel stories back off, while planning to move against Jesus later.

By Pete Sheehan

along the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, provide a treasure trove of information about the ancient writings which compose the Old and New Testaments.

One Biblical scholar points out that discoveries gleaned from the Dead Sea Scrolls could transform the popular Christian image of the Pharisees and other groups which constituted the world where Jesus ministered.

While readers of the gospels see the Pharisees as extraordinarily strict in interpreting Jewish law, James VanderKam, Ph.D., author of *An Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls*, says the Essenes, a Jewish monastic movement associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls, saw the Pharisees differently.

The Essenes were one of the three major

The writings of the Essenes, Dr. VanderKam says, indicate a stricter view. One legal text in the scrolls dictates: "No man minding a child shall carry it while going and coming on the Sabbath."

The text continues: "No man shall assist a beast to give birth on the Sabbath day. And if it should fall into a cistern or pit, he shall not lift it out on the Sabbath."

That is but one of about 850 texts known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered at the site of what is believed to be an Essene community center.

The Essenes are not clearly identified in the New Testament, but they are referred to in other sources, such as by Josephus, the first-century historian. Some scholars speculate that John the Baptist was an Essene.

"Perhaps the chief contribution that the scrolls make to study of the Old Testament is the massive increase in textual evidence for the biblical books and the great stride backwards in time that they allow us to take."

There are an estimated 202 manuscripts relating to the Old Testament among the Dead Sea Scrolls, including very early Hebrew texts of various Old Testament books.

One possible conclusion from this evidence, says Dr. VanderKam, is that some later Greek translations of Hebrew texts, once thought to contain errors, are now seen as being correct translations of different Hebrew texts of the same books.

Other possible revelations include a scroll with a story from the Book of Joshua located in a different spot in the book as had come down before, and a paragraph from 1 Samuel, between chapters 10 and 11, not found in texts previously known.

There is also evidence, which Dr. VanderKam says is highly disputed, of the existence of nine additional psalms to the Book of Psalms' traditional 150.

Findings from the scrolls also give evidence of the authoritative nature of the Old Testament's Books of the Prophets, which some religious groups relegate to lesser status than Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, those books which constitute the Torah.



One of the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. (Photo by David Singer)

Though it is easy to speak of disparities found in the various manuscripts of biblical books, Dr. VanderKam explains, the scrolls show that the texts that have been passed down were generally transcribed very reliably.

More debate and discussion, scholarly and otherwise, is expected as more of the volumes of the scroll's translations are made available, Dr. VanderKam predicts.

Some 50 scholars are part of the international team that is charged with producing official editions of the texts. The volumes are growing rapidly.

"The secondary literature on the scrolls has mushroomed to such an extent that one has as little hope of managing it as of reading everything published on the gospels," notes Dr. VanderKam.

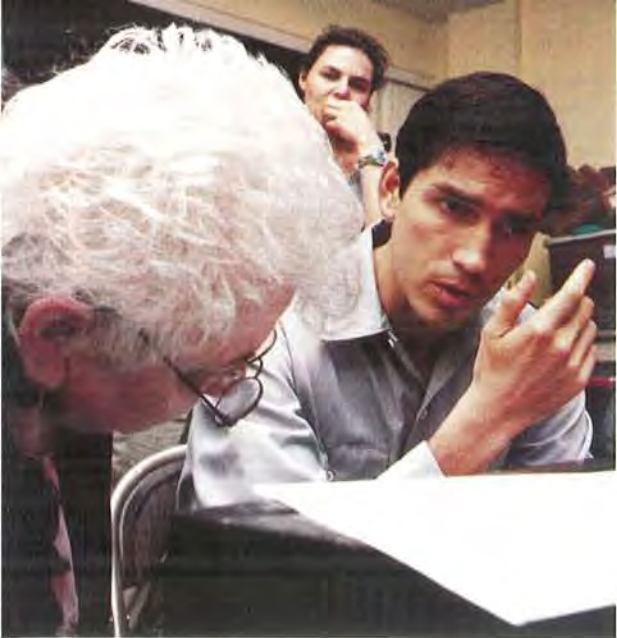
One bibliography of books on the Dead Sea Scrolls is hundreds of pages long.

The scrolls have generated wild speculation, including one report that their release was delayed out of fear that they would undermine the credibility of Christianity.

"I'm happy to report," Dr. VanderKam quips, "that doesn't seem to be the case." 🐾

James VanderKam, Ph.D.





Director Merle Worth consults with actor James Caviezel on the set of the *Resurrection* video. (Photo by Thomas D. Sullivan)

ABS Video Captures Houston Film Festival Honor



Modern Means of Translating Scripture Recognized

BY PETER FEUERHERD



The concept of biblical translation usually conjures up images of scholars poring over old manuscripts, studying texts from ancient languages and

making them accessible to modern readers.

But for the American Bible Society, biblical translators can also include a director on a set, shouting "Cut!" and "It's a Wrap!"

That concept was publicly recognized at the WorldFest Houston International Film Competition held in April. Among the 12,000 entries—from the U.S. and around the world—was *Resurrection*, an 11-minute short film produced by ABS. It was awarded first-prize in the

category of dramatic experimental film and video.

Resurrection, shot at All Nations Church in gritty Jersey City, N.J., was directed by Merle Worth and stars Jim Caviezel, a Hollywood actor best-known for his roles in *Frequency* and *The Thin Red Line*. It is based on John 20.1-31, and tells the story of the Resurrection miracle through the eyes of a searching young man who recalls the gospel story of the women who first witnessed Jesus' being raised from the dead.



Scenes from the award-winning *Resurrection* video.



Executive producer of *Resurrection* is Fern Lee Hagedorn. Producer is Nina Froriep. Also involved in the production were Andrew T. Seltz, new media program manager for ABS, and Robert Hodgson Jr., director of the ABS Research Center for Scripture and Media. Some 30 scholars associated with ABS also consulted on the project.

According to Thomas D. Sullivan, writing in the October/November 1999 issue of the *Record*, the *Resurrection* performance of Mr. Caviezel tells the 2000-year old story in a renewed way.

"Mr. Caviezel tells the story of Mary meeting the risen Jesus ... With subtle variations in rhythm and intonation, always with conviction. He is compelling to watch," Mr. Sullivan wrote. "His telling of the tale is serious, passionate."

The award, in a category including religious and secular films, "should now translate into



broader exposure for ABS in the field," noted David Burke, Ph.D., associate vice president, Scripture Publications Area for ABS.

The film is the fifth in ABS' *Life of Christ* short film video series. Four previous videos focused on the visit of Mary to Elizabeth; the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, and Jesus' healing of a possessed man in Mark 5.1-20 dramatized in *Out of the Tombs*.

Previous awards received by the series in-



clude a 1992 Houston International Film Festival for *Out of the Tombs*, in the category of religious short films. *A Father and Two Sons*, based on the Prodigal Son parable, won a silver medal in 1996. *The Neighbor*, a film about the Good Samaritan, was a 1999 finalist. The final installment in the series, *Nativity*, is in production and is expected to be released in the fall.

The Houston festival also recognized ABS for its Interactive web site on the bilingual *The Good Samaritan/El Buen Samaritano* video.

The awards, notes Dr. Burke, are a recogni-

J. Hunter Todd, center, director of WorldFest Houston, congratulates Fern Lee Hagedorn, left, executive producer, and Andrew Seltz, director of New Media Translations, for their work on the award-winning video *Resurrection*.



Above left: Adele Reinhardt and the Rev. John David Larson, ABS consultants on the set.

The ABS website was also an award winner.

tion of ABS' efforts "to push the boundaries in the work of bringing God's Word into the new forms and formats for modern audiences."

Information about the ABS video series can be obtained by contacting Andrew Seltz at 212-408-1577 or by visiting <http://www.newmedia-bible.org>. The *Resurrection* video can be viewed on that web site.

On Oct. 22, 1999, the American Bible Society's Partnerships and Programs Area was born, marking the beginning of

a new era of partnership between ABS and local churches and organizations to further Jesus' Great Commission.

It's a win/win proposition. Local churches and ministries are in the forefront of ministry within their own communities, but often lack the resources to meet every need for Scripture. ABS has the resources, but lacks the grassroots presence.

The area consists of two divisions: Ministry Partnerships and Ministry Programs.

Ministry Partnerships' goal is to recruit partners among local churches and ministries.

The men and women who have formed the cornerstone of ABS volunteerism were given the opportunity to be a part of Ministry Partnerships. They informed their church and organizational leaders about the program. Former volunteer area coordinators attended an event last May kicking off a national Ministry Partner sign-up campaign.

The former coordinators learned of the many benefits ABS Ministry Partners enjoy, including:

- Priority review and processing of Scripture grant requests;
- Free help in creating and setting up an organizational Web page on ABS' Web site **ForMinistry.com**;
- Special discounts and credit terms for ABS product purchases;
- Free training and consulting on how to recruit, train, and mobilize volunteers;
- Priority access to the **ABS Ministry Programs** described below.

Oriented toward increasing Bible usage by individuals and communities, Ministry Programs is committed to initiate, develop, and support programs for effective Scripture distribution. These include:

Bible Reading Program

Nearly all American households have at least one Bible; yet, sadly, most of those Bibles go unread. The goal of the *Bible Reading Program* is to encourage Americans to read and study the Scriptures.

The *Bible Reading Program* airs on more than 70 radio stations, bringing

LAUNCHING A NEW ERA FOR MINISTRY

Partnerships and Programs Outreach

words of hope to people in the most unlikely settings.

"I started listening to the *Bible Reading Program* on the radio while cleaning the restrooms at

work," wrote one man. "I was cleansing my soul as I scoured the bathrooms," he explained, "and it took on a whole new meaning."

Every day the man listened to the life-changing program as he worked, then went home and read the passage of the day.

Sports Program

Sports is one of the few common denominators that knits our worldwide society together and as such has become an integral part of the mission of the United Bible Societies and ABS. The ministry goal of the newly created Sports Program is to reach out with the Word of God to men, women, youth, and children who love sports.

Scripture Resources Program

When a ministry or church is unable to meet all of its Scripture needs, the Scripture Resources Program is a bastion of hope, providing Bibles, New Testaments, and Portions free of charge. During fiscal 1999, the program provided 1,719,5000 Bibles and New Testaments.

"I received the German Bible and the reading guides," wrote one prison inmate. "It is not easy for us prisoners, especially when you are from a foreign country without family or friends in the USA like me. It is good to know that people like you are outside helping me and giving me hope."

Extreme Faith Youth Retreats

Scripture, says ABS Associate Director Jean Bross-Judge, "is the rock and foundation" of *Extreme Faith Youth Retreats*. "It is a gift we can offer to youth that will go beyond the day."

Extreme Faith Youth Retreats are held throughout the U.S. and run by facilitators personally selected, trained and supervised by Ms. Bross-Judge. Every activity during a four-hour

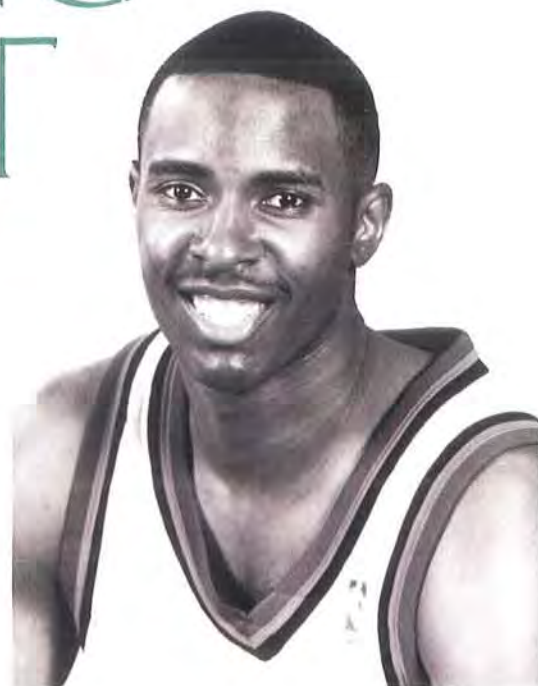
retreat is geared toward building mutual trust, respect and a foundation of solid Christian values.

If you, your church or ministry group would like more information on Ministry Partnerships and Programs, call 1-800-32-BIBLE or write to American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. 📧

Pittsburgh Summer Sports Program children receive daily Bible lessons and sports training. Coach Chris Del Toro hands an *Extreme Faith Youth Bible* to a young camper.



COMPETING WITH A SPIRIT OF PEACE ON & OFF THE COURT



BY PETER
FEUERHERD

Charlie Ward dis-
tributes presents at
a Christian rally in
Harlem, N.Y. (Photo
by Thomas D. Sullivan)



Call up the Connecticut home of New York Knicks guard Charlie Ward and you will hear a taped message proudly proclaiming the recent birth of a son named Caleb, the first-born of Mr. Ward and his sports-attorney wife, Tonja.

It's an appropriate name for the son of the former Heisman trophy winner—Mr. Ward was once a star quarterback at Florida State University—whose job now entails navigating in-and-around the forests populated by muscular and elongated NBA players.

Mr. Ward, just over six feet tall, notes that the biblical Caleb was a fearless man of great faith.

Charlie Ward

Caleb was sent by Moses, with 11 other men, to scout the Promised Land for the “big game,” so to speak, which the Israelites were planning after their sojourn in the desert. (Numbers 13:14).

Ten returned, grumbling that the competition for the Promised Land was too formidable. One tribe, they said, was composed of people “so big that we felt as small as grasshoppers” (Numbers 13.33 *Contemporary English Version*).

But Caleb, with his companion Joshua, argued that this game was too vital to pass up. “If we obey the Lord, he will surely give us that land rich with milk and honey,” he told the Israelites.

Mr. Ward sees Caleb as a model of one “who had total faith in God, wholeheartedly, because he didn’t see the physical presence of his enemies.”

It’s that kind of faith which Mr. Ward visibly celebrates at the end of each contest. Even after brutal defeats—New York crowds in particular do not easily countenance their Knicks coming

up short—Mr. Ward can be found in the midst of a prayer circle with his teammates and, on occasion, their opponents. They pray, he says, for safe travel home and for protection from injury.

Some cynics have wondered whether such public displays of Christian faith are compatible with the tough competitive nature of the NBA.

But Mr. Ward, a member of White Plains (N.Y.) Union Baptist Church, and the grandson of a minister and the son of a coach and a librarian, acknowledges, “we’re all competitive” and “you do what you can do to gain an edge.”

Yet he is a believer that professional athletes can still practice sportsmanship and be role models. It’s something he tries to do in his own quiet way.

He made a point of talking to Brooklyn junior high school students after a boy was stabbed to death there as the result of a fracas following a basketball game. He told the students to put sports in perspective and to have hope.

“If I can influence just one person, or two, to go on to better themselves, that’s all I can ask for. Then maybe those two can influence someone else,” he told *The New York Times*.

Mr. Ward is also willing to talk to young people about their faith. Last Christmas season, he witnessed to youth and distributed toys at a Harlem rally co-sponsored by Metro Ministries and the American Bible Society. He and his wife also operate a summer basketball camp for girls.

While his Christian faith calls him to such good works, Mr. Ward realizes that the Bible tells him that Christians are sure to be misunderstood in this world.

“Christians are always criticized for something because of their temperament, because they have peace,” he says.

Mr. Ward has experienced his share of athletic triumphs. After sitting on the bench for three years, he quarterbacked Florida State so successfully in his 1993 senior year that he captured the coveted Heisman Trophy by the

“God doesn’t care who wins. ... He’s put us there for a purpose and a reason. A lot of times losing is a way we can give him glory.”

largest margin in history. He led the team to an 11-1 record.

That wasn’t all. On the basketball team, he led Florida State to its first NCAA Elite Eight appearance. He also earned his bachelor’s in therapeutic recreation. Drafted for football, basketball, and baseball, he chose the hardwood, where his playing time has increased considerably since his first two seasons.

For the past few years, he has been a Knicks’ fixture, averaging nearly eight points a game while focusing on setting up shots for his

teammates in a leadership role as a point guard. The team went to the NBA finals last year.

While he has known the joy of victory, he finds that the sting of defeat provides a greater measure of his faith.

“God doesn’t care who wins. He cares about giving him glory,” says Mr. Ward.

“He’s put us there for a purpose and a reason. A lot of times losing is a way we can give him glory.”

He finds that, as a Christian, the biggest challenge is maintaining serenity after defeat. “Only the peace of Christ can bring that peace out of you,” he says.

Win or lose, that peace is something Mr. Ward intends to spread not only to little Caleb but to a sports-saturated country desperately seeking role models. It is a giant task—seemingly a battle of grasshoppers pitted against goliaths—but one he is assured will be done all for the greater glory of God. 

Charlie Ward goes to the basket during game at Madison Square Garden in New York.



ABS Learning Bible Fills Scripture Knowledge Gap

Interested in the Bible but find references to obscure ancient cities, no longer performed religious rituals, and the history of ancient Palestine confusing? Who were the Pharisees? The Zealots? Why were Samaritans looked down upon? Why did the ancient kings of Israel engage in bloody wars? What was the role of prophets among the Hebrews?

These questions, and many others, are answered in the *Contemporary English Version Learning Bible*, recently published by the American Bible Society.

The book grew out of discussions about increasing Bible literacy, particularly among young and novice Bible readers.

The *Learning Bible*, some eight years in the making, is four-color, fully illustrated, and extensively annotated. The text is in the easy-to-read *Contemporary English Version* style. Study aids provide the historical, cultural, and linguistic information needed by the reader to understand the Biblical narra-

tive. It is non-sectarian and non-denominational, and invites readers to engage the text and discover how the Bible can be applied to their lives.

Images in the *Learning Bible* include art from varied cultures around the world. Traditional Western European art is included, as well as Scriptural art from Africa, India, China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, and Latin America. The point, notes Thomas Durakis, group director for brand management, is to "show how every culture and every era has embraced these biblical stories and made them their own."

The *Learning Bible* will also include scenic photographs of significant locales in the Holy Land.

"In short, every effort has been made to give readers a far-ranging and breathtaking visual experience that supports their reading of the Bible texts," says Mr. Durakis.

The *Learning Bible* is available in both flex (\$34.95) and hard cover (\$39.95) and can be obtained by calling the American Bible Society at 1-800-32-BIBLE or through our Web Site at www.americanbible.org. ■

FOR THE RECORD

100 YEARS AGO

Scriptures for Appalachia

At the turn of the century, the *American Bible Society Record* was full of accounts of missions in exotic lands where turmoil raged in the midst of Scripture distribution efforts. Nearly entire issues of the magazine were devoted to the Boxer Rebellion in China and the revolt against American rule in the Philippines.

But that doesn't mean the home front was neglected by ABS.

The June 1900 issue of the *Record* featured an inspiring account of Bible distribution efforts in Appalachia; then, as now, one of the country's most economically-deprived and isolated regions.

Edward O. Guerrant, the *Record* writer, noted that Appalachia was a region "of which the American people know so little, probably less than they know of China and Japan."

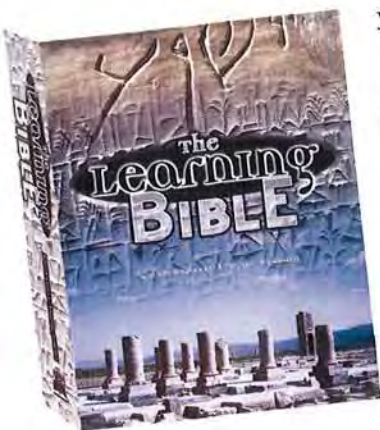
The Rev. J.B. Mitchell, an ABS representative, described the obstacles in distributing the Bible in the mountains of North Carolina.

He noted that one area minister traveled 80 miles to receive Scriptures. In some isolated regions, only 10 percent of families were said to have access to a printed Bible. In some Sunday schools, there was only a single Bible for a class of some 50 students.

"I realize my great responsibility, and as the work is attended with many hardships and difficulties, I ask you to kindly remember me in your prayers, that God will give me grace, strength, and wisdom to prosecute this work to his glory," Mr. Mitchell wrote to *Record* readers.

Other ABS representatives in other parts of Appalachia shared similar stories. One woman worker in Tennessee noted, "if I can leave in each home a copy of the New Testament, in type that they can read, I would like to do so." She said that the people in her region were generally too poor to buy any books.

A Presbyterian minister in Georgia noted that he ministered in a region "where illiteracy prevails to a very large extent, and where the gospel is not preached often." He added, "we find numerous homes where there is no Bible." ■



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Biblical Faith Saved Her Life



Serojini Harris

Serojini Harris, 77, looks back on her life and is uneasy when acquaintances proclaim awe about the way she has overcome obstacles.

"It was nothing big, nothing great, nothing to boast about," she says modestly.

But the retired social worker from San Leandro, Calif., has weathered and overcome more than the normal vicissitudes. Her life began in even more humble circumstances than the Christian Savior whose message she has continued to promote as a long-time supporter of the American Bible Society.

Just days after her birth in India, she was abandoned—there was a famine at the time and baby girls were frequently discarded. She was discovered by a Christian missionary, taken to a nearby mission hospital and was eventually adopted by Gertrude Harris, an American missionary.

Her adoption was miraculous in its own way. But her very survival may have been even a greater miracle. Her infancy was marked by overcoming a series of potentially fatal pitfalls.

First, she was found in the midst of the monsoon season, a time when scorpions, snakes, and other unfriendly creatures abound in India. Yet, she notes, talking about herself those many years ago in the detached third person, "there was no damage to the baby."

She was a crabby baby. A wet nurse was discovered numbing her with opium to quiet her down; only the intervention of orphanage officials saved Serojini from the harmful effects of the drug.

Her adoptive mother's decision to adopt her was particularly courageous. The practice at the time was that American missionaries did not live with the native people. Segregation was enforced; adoption of a native child was not supported. It was frowned upon.

Miss Harris was denied child support from her fellow missionaries. She was forced to rely on her family back in the States for support, particularly

her sister Irene Kilpatric.

With the support of her adoptive mother, her aunt, and the grace of God, Serojini went to mission school and, after coming to the United States, eventually graduated from college. She enjoyed a long career in medical social work in Ohio, New York, and California.

While she is modest about her achievements, she is willing to briefly acknowledge what was perhaps the source of her success: "My mother was proud of me; my aunt was proud of me, and I am proud of me."

Retired for the past 11 years, Serojini spends much of her time as a healthcare volunteer, continuing to hone the skills she earned over the course of a 39-year career as a medical social worker. She now lives alone, having survived both her mother—who died in 1963—and her beloved aunt, who died in 1980. She loves to travel, having been to just about every region of the world except for Eastern Europe and the Muslim states in the Middle East.

With the help of the ABS annuity program, she receives income derived from her accumulated assets, which will then be turned over to the Society when she dies. Her support of ABS is borne out of a deep Christian faith and a recognition that good stewardship requires putting the goods of this world to proper use. Without any heirs to provide for, she believes that the ABS cause is worth supporting in her will.

That could be because Serojini has a deeply personal relationship with the Scriptures. She even attributes her very physical survival to God's Word.

"Mom wanted it," she says about her generosity to ABS, citing her deceased mother's long interest in Bible training. She was a dean of a Bible school in India.

Because of that missionary presence, Serojini has lived a long and full life. "It's because of the Bible I am where I am," she says. ■

MORE INFORMATION
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GIVING PROGRAMS
SPONSORED BY THE
AMERICAN BIBLE
SOCIETY CAN BE
OBTAINED BY CALL-
ING THE MAJOR &
PLANNED GIFT PRO-
GRAMS AT 1-800-
820-6227.

■ MINN. MONKS TURN BACK SCRIPTURE CLOCK

In the 21st century, it would seem absurd to write a Bible in longhand. But for a small group of Minnesota monks, that is the plan, according to a *Newsweek* article.

The Benedictine monks at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., want to create a Scriptural work of art for the centuries. They have commissioned Welsh artist Donald Jackson to do the intensive calligraphy required of the first illuminated Bible produced in more than 550 years.

The monks hope "to make the word of God live on the page—dance on the page—for generations to come," *Newsweek* quotes Brother Dietrich Reinhart, St. John's president. The monks expect that the Bible project, much like *The Book of Kells*, a medieval Scripture translation displayed in Dublin, will attract interested pilgrims from all over the world.

■ STUDY: GIANT GOLIATH SAW DAVID AS A BLUR

Vladimir Berginer, a professor of neurology at Israel's Ben Gurion University, theorizes that the giant Goliath, slain by the future King David in the Bible, may have suffered from acromegaly.

Mr. Berginer was quoted in the *Independent*, a British publication.

Acromegaly, associated with giantism, affects the pituitary gland and is characterized by restricted vision.

"It is written in the Bible that Goliath was moving very slowly, but that David was running. If my theory is correct, Goliath was suffering from restricted vision, and could not see David from time to time," Mr. Berginer said.

The professor said his findings do not diminish the biblical story. The story is still about "the battle of good against evil."

■ BIBLE STUDY ENDS IN INS BAN

According to *The New York Times*, a Roman Catholic group's Bible study among detainees has resulted in the group being banned from

detention centers operated by the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The group, the Jesuit Refugee Service, has been barred from centers in New York and New Jersey after participants in Bible study groups talked about conditions in the detention centers.

Adelaide Abankwah, a former detainee now living in New York after receiving asylum, protested the INS decision in a letter to the *Times*.

"Of course we talked about conditions of detention with our visitors," she noted. The Bible study sessions, she wrote, "kept my faith alive when it was challenged every day." She concluded, "Detention almost killed my soul. Prayer and humanity saved me."

■ HOLY LAND ARCHAEOLOGY STIRS ISRAELI DEBATE

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that Israelis are in the midst of an intense debate over the impact of modern archaeological findings on their biblical history.

"The Bible has coerced archaeology to interpret findings in a particular way," argues Tel Aviv University's Ze'ev Herzog, an archaeologist who debunks certain aspects of the Old Testament, including the belief that the Israelites came to the Promised Land after fleeing slavery in Egypt.

But other scholars disagree.

Archaeologist Amihai Mazar of the Hebrew University argues that the Bible provides legitimate history verified by recent digs in the region. For example, the Book of Judges account is consistent with findings indicating that, during the era described in the Old Testament, hundreds of small settlements were established in the central mountainous region of Israel.

Yair Zakovitch, professor of Bible at Hebrew University, says that the debate indicates the importance of the Scriptures for modern-day Israelis.

"The Bible is the foundation of my nation's culture. It is perhaps the only common denominator for all Jews. We are all involved in a dialogue with the Bible." ■



SCRIPTURES PROVIDED BY BIBLE SOCIETIES FOR FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

ARMENIA

1994: 45,311

1999: 67,375

TOTAL SINCE 1987:

589,023

AZERBAIJAN

1994: 7,079

1999: 14,720

TOTAL SINCE 1987:

132,758

ESTONIA

1994: 21,215

1999: 102,760

TOTAL SINCE 1987:

389,891

GEORGIA

1994: 126,486

1999: 9,857

TOTAL SINCE 1987:

395,505

RUSSIA

1994: 1,110,280

1999: 590,424

TOTAL SINCE 1987:

13,988,982

UKRAINE

1994: 396,349

1999: 333,869

TOTAL SINCE 1987:

3,422,961

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

■ MOZAMBIQUE

A Bible Society warehouse was destroyed and the entire stock of Bibles lost in the coastal city of Beira after killer floods ravaged the area in March.

Despite the calamity, the faith of the people here persisted. The British Broadcasting Corporation reported that people lining up for helicopter rescues during the flooding clutched their Bibles, one of the few possessions able to be carried to safety. Aid organizations estimated that more than a million people were displaced by the floods in the valleys of the Zambezi, Save, and Limpopo rivers.

United Bible Societies distributed Scriptures to refugees battered by the calamity. "The comfort and encouragement of God's Word is for them a necessity as they try to make sense of the harshness of nature," said Judy Kendall, a UBS photojournalist working in the region.

■ IRAQ

The government has given permission for the distribution of 10,000 copies of a daily devotional Portion called *Meeting With God*.

The devotional will be inserted in *Babil*, the most widely read

newspaper in the country.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to make the Word of God available to the Iraqi people and we thank God for the positive endorsement of the Bible Society's activities by the Iraqi government," said Jamal Hashweh, general secretary of the Bible Society in Jordan.

There is currently no Bible Society in Iraq, although Scriptures are distributed via shipments from the Bible Society in Jordan. Iraq has been under UN-sponsored economic sanctions since the Persian Gulf War.

■ FIJI

The people of this Pacific island recently celebrated the translation of the Bible into their native language after more than a century of work.

The Rotuman Bible is the fruit of a United Bible Societies project launched 23 years ago. That project, in turn, had its roots in a translation of the New Testament published in 1870 in Sydney, Australia.

"This Bible assures the Rotuman people of their identity, their security and destiny," noted Solomone Duru, general secretary of the Bible Society in the South Pacific.

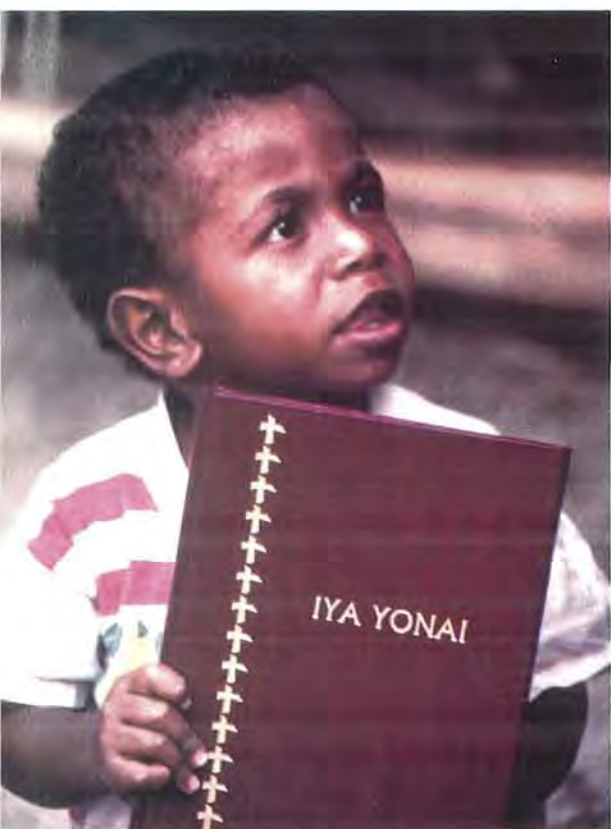
■ SWEDEN

In the valley of the Tornio River, which lies within the Arctic Circle, villagers gathered recently in a church in Pajala to sing praises to God for a Bible Portion in their own language. That language is called Meankieli.

People came to the ceremony from the surrounding villages as well as from across the border in Finland.

Meankeili is the language of some 50,000 people in northern Sweden. It is derived from Finnish and is one of five officially-recognized minority languages in Sweden. ☞

Even young children were given their own New Testaments during the recent launch of the Umanakaina New Testament in Papua, New Guinea. (Photo by Sigmund and Ingjerd Evensen)



NATIONAL NEWS

■ **ILLINOIS**

The American Bible Society captured a number of DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards, given to members of the Religion Communicators Council who demonstrate excellence in religious communications and public relations.

The prizes were awarded at the group's convention held in April in Chicago.

An award of excellence was given to the *Record* for a cover designed by David Singer. The *Record* also captured an award of merit for best overall publication design.

Awards of merit were presented to Ena Heller for a bookmark promoting The Gallery at the American Bible Society, an idea developed by Thomas D. Sullivan; Peter Feuerherd, for a story on the *Jubilee Bible* which appeared in the *Record*, and James Walker, for an ABS video on *Sharing God's Word in Egypt*.

■ **TEXAS**

The American Bible Society was a prominent player at the Mayor's Literacy Award Breakfast held in Houston recently.

The Society was honored by Houston Mayor Lee Brown with the 2000 New Partnership Award to honor ABS' commitment to literacy development through its Houston office.

At the same event Barbara Bush, former First Lady, was awarded the first American Bible Society Eleanor McCollum Literacy Program Award. The award, named for Mrs. McCollum, a generous ABS benefactor and Houston resident, honored Mrs. Bush for her commitment to literacy programs.

■ **NEW YORK**

The Gallery at the American Bible Society will

present *Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions* through June 24 at Bible House in New York City.

The exhibition, developed by the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Service with the National Museum of American History, examines how the musical legacy of slavery and the worship practices of black churches contributed to African American heritage.

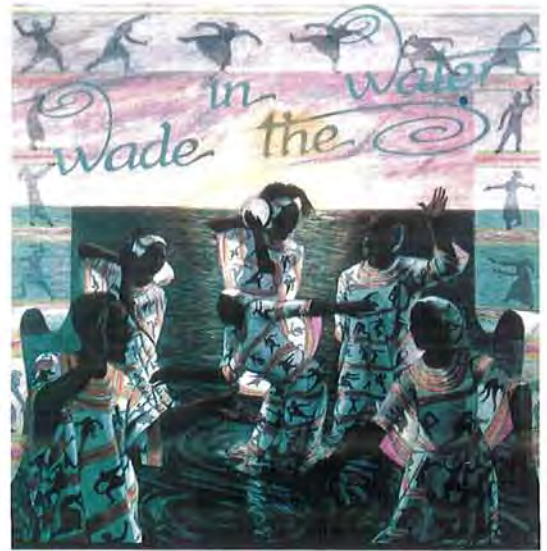
In conjunction with the exhibit, the Gallery will display 18 rare documentary photos from its archives that tell the story of the American Bible Society's work in the African American community.

The Gallery will also feature 12 Scriptures prepared for the African American community between 1865 and 1999. Nine of the items were produced by ABS, including a copy of the Gospel of John distributed to newly-freed slaves in 1865.

Wade in the Water was made possible by a grant from Infiniti, a division of Nissan North America. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian Institution Special Exhibition Fund and Educational Outreach Fund, The Sparrow Foundation, and The Links, Inc.

Available to complement the exhibition are four compact discs of gospel music recorded for a series by National Public Radio.

Further information on the gallery can be obtained by calling 212-408-1500. 📞



***Wade in the Water*, a painting by Al Smith, an artist from Suitland, Md. The painting, from the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, will appear at The Gallery of the American Bible Society through June 24.**

IN MEMORIAM

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

MY MOTHER,
DOROTHY ACKERMANN
Given by: Robert J. Ackermann

MY GRANDFATHER,
RALSTON W. ADAMS
Given by: Charlene Johnson

MY SISTER,
ALICE K. ANDERSON
Given by: Arthur W. Anderson

LEONA F. BAJARIN
Given by: Ladies Missionary
Corp.

MILDRED BAL
Given by: Archie G. Senn

OUR BROTHER-IN-LAW
WILLIAM "BILL" BARKER
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Paul R.
Peterson

VERNON BARNHART
Given by: Elizabeth L. Wilde

A. PAUL BATES
Given by: Louis Crouch

MY SISTER,
MARY JUNE BEARD
Given by: Clifford E. Anderson

MEAD R. BECK, JR.
Given by: M. L. Nichols and
B. A. Wolfe

DR. WENDELL M. BELEW
Given by: Herbert C. Jones

"OUR LITTLE BENJAMIN"
Given by: Eldore W. Schwinke

MY BROTHERS,
OLAF BERGE, JR., SIGFRIED
BERGE, ANSGAC BERGE
Given by: Agnes B. Smith

T. J. BICZO
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. George F.
Riddle

MARY BINGHAM
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Merrill C.
Jones

MY HUSBAND,
RICHARD BOEPPLE
Given by: Pauline Boepple

REV. JOHN H. BOSTROM
Given by: Mrs. Betty F. Lenthall

RAYMOND BOYD
Given by: Joyce Boyd

MY UNCLE,
WILLIAM (NOODY) BELVIN
Given by: Dr. & Mrs. R. W.
(Buddy) Haywood

MY AUNT,
ROSA L. BUCCIANINI
Given by: Dorothy & Ann Coscia

MY WIFE, HELEN BUCKMAN
Given by: Raymond T. Buckman

DOROTHY L. BURGESS
Given by: Hope Christian
Fellowship

COLEMAN BURKE
Given by: Pamela C. Hulshizer

COLEMAN BURKE
Given by: James & Lucile Trott

MY DAUGHTER,
VICKI LYNN CLARK
Given by: Bonnie Peterson

HELEN CLICH
Given by: Don & Judy Bernecker

MY HUSBAND, RAY CLOSE
Given by: Louise Close

ANNA CULLEN
Given by: Andrew & Gloria
Renfrew

MR. & MRS. GOTTLIEB DAFT
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. William
Field

MRS. ROSE DIVITA
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert
Dunlap

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

MY HUSBAND,
RALPH D. ERDMAN
Given by: Doris E. Erdman

MY FATHER, "CORKEY" FINIS
Given by: Your Daughter, Sharon
Koch

CHARLES W. GEISEL
Given by: William Geisel

MRS. BONNIE FAWCETT GISH
Given by: Fay Mason, Karen
Mason, Steve & Kathy Brown
Family

LENA EPLING GOODE
Given by: Helen V. Goode

REV. G. FRANKLIN GRAY
Given by: Marjorie G. Carleton

MY HUSBAND,
LLOYD HARALDSON
Given by: Hilda Haraldson

OUR AUNT,
FLORENCE HARKNESS
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Bruce
Laurason

MR. ROBERT L. HENDRIX
Given by: Jim & Betty Royal

MARY HUDSON
Given by: Dave Schaebler

ERNEST R. "STEVE" ISAACS
Given by: Richard & Rhonda
Isaacs

OUR MOTHER,
RUBY L. JACOBSON
Given by: Ross & Oda Keske

IN MEMORY OF MY BELOVED
HUSBAND, HAROLD D.
KAMM, AND THAT OF MYSELF
JULIA H. KAMM
Given by: The Estate of Julia H.
Kamm

MY MOTHER,
VIRGINIA LEE KEELER
Given by: Dana M. Courtney

BETTY CRAIG, ANDREW KEEN
Given by: Mike & Gloria Croft

MARIE KERR
Given by: Mary B. Jones

ROWEENA LAMB
Given by: Leanna Lass

MY PARENTS,
WALTER & IRIS LANIER
Given by: LaRue L. Kinney

DOROTHY LEAVITT
Given by: Dr. & Mrs. C. Lee
Gilliant

MY COUSIN,
FREIDA LINDENTHALER
Given by: George Frenzel

MY CHRISTIAN BROTHER
AND VERY DEAR FRIEND,
J. NELSON LOUX
Given by: Wayne H. Sandford

DON MACKIEWICZ
Given by: Linda S. Thornburgh

FRANKLIN MACK
Given by: Elizabeth Gibson

MY MOTHER,
ADA C. MASTERS
Given by: Harold R. Masters

MY WIFE, LILLIAN F. MAY
Given by: Maynard L. May

MARTHA MCCOY
NORMA HIGHT
Given by: Mary Felts

MY SISTER,
BONITA COOK MCGEE
Given by: Rosa Lee Cook

STEVEN W. MEYER
Given by: Nan S. Fitzgerald

TOM MILLER
Given by: Rebecca A. Berna

ROBERT MOODY
Given by: Vicki Schad

MY MOTHER, EDITH NELSON
Given by: Theron G. Nelson

EBBA AND JOE PARTEKA
Given by: Jean Parteka

MY HUSBAND,
JAMES G. PATTON
Given by: Mrs. James G. Patton

VAN PETERSON
Given by: Art and Aileen
Henderson

MY HUSBAND,
WAYNE W. PETERSON
Given by: Juanita G. Peterson

MY HUSBAND,
LLOYD PETRICK
Given by: Palma H. Petrick

MR. DIMITRI PETROU
Given by: Martha D. Dendinos

MY WIFE, DOROTHY
PFOTENHAUER, MY SON,
MARK PFOTENHAUER
Given by: Judge Jay Pfotenhauer

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

OUR DAUGHTER,
JANICE HOELL RALPH
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Henry W.
Hoell

IN MEMORY OF MRS. GLADYS
M. REBER
Given by: The Estate of Gladys
M. Reber

JEAN REDER
Given by: Matilda Bryan

WILLIAM WILLIS REESE
Given by: Mrs. Henry I. Barbey

JOHN REIMER
Given by: James Warren
Robertson

RUTH REINSCHMIDT
Given by: Paul & Jan
Reinschmidt

KATIE REYNOLDS
Given by: Dave & Lorian
Reynolds

MY GRANDMOTHER,
RUBY RIDENHOUR
Given by: Glen & Amy Beach

ARTHUR & MABEL LEE
RUNZO
Given by: Frank & Jody Dean

LUCILLE SATRUM
Given by: Rev. & Mrs. Keith L.
Lueneburg

OUR FATHER,
MR. HERMAN A. SCHAAR
Given by: Rev. & Mrs. Howard
Schaar

REV. JOHN R. SCOTT
Given by: Marlu P. Scott

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW,
CLARENCE E. SNELL
Given by: Wayne Sandford

MY SISTER, ROGENE STATHOS
Given by: Dennis Lawrence

MY GRANDSON,
JOHN THOMAS STEPHAN
Given by: Jean Stephan

MRS. E. TJEERDSMA
Given by: Anthony Admiraal

MY MOTHER,
ELIZABETH TROUT
Given by: Carolyn Dawson

MATTIE URWING
Given by: Virginia Hutchings &
Carla Johnson

GEORGE VAN WAGONER
Given by: Mary E. Van Wagoner

RAY VINCENT
Given by: Stanley & Carol
Wallace

MY HUSBAND,
KENNETH WEEKS
Given by: Charlotte Weeks

FLORENCE E. WETHERILL
Given by: John & JoAnne Vigil,
Bob & Ada Whittle

ART WHITNEY
Given by: Cheri W. Wescott

MATTHEW WITHERS
Given by: Mrs. Allen Withers

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

CRISTINA WOO
Given by: Jeremy & Claudia
Nickel

MY BROTHER,
JULIUS WUST
Given by: Freda A. Schaeffer

MAXINE YODER
Given by: Oakley & Susie Turner

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.



Christians Unite Against Persecution in India

In the wake of recent attacks on Christians across India, the Bible Society of India (BSI) has joined with other leading Christian organizations to form the All-India Christian Council.

Bidyut Kumar Pramanik, BSI president, met with more than 30 other Christian leaders at a consultation last year. It was unanimously decided to form the council to act on national concerns and issues.

The new council is designed to serve, protect, and affirm its members in an increasingly tense religious and social climate. Last year there were an estimated 113 attacks on Christians and Christian missions. Much of the persecution is attributed to fundamentalist Hindu militants.

Among the victims was missionary Graham

Staines and his sons, who were murdered by Hindu zealots. Even Christians gathered in large groups are not guaranteed safety. For example, nearly 150 delegates attending a convention by the Alpha Missionary Movement were forced out of their lodgings by members of the Hindu fundamentalist group Bajrang Dal, who attacked the Christians with sticks, belts, chains, and fists.

Among the projects of the All-India Christian Council is *The Sowing Circle*, a magazine chronicling such persecution.

In his opening editorial Dr. Pramanik repeated the biblical blessing: "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them." ■

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

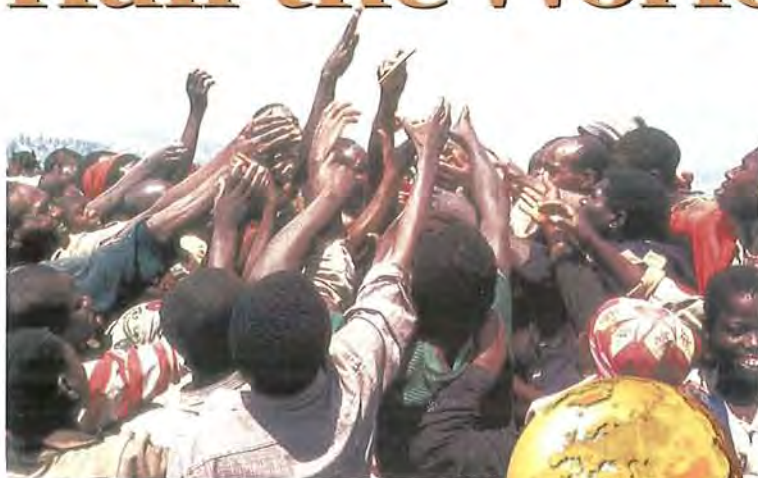
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Bible-a-Month Club

1865 Broadway

New York, NY 10023-7505

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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.

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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:

**American Bible Society
1865 Broadway
New York, NY 10023-7505**

Yes! I want to join the Bible-a-Month Club. I will give \$ _____ a month to provide _____ Bibles at \$4 each.
☐ My first Bible-a-Month Club gift of \$ _____ is enclosed.

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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 2000

**A Fresh Beginning by
Encouraging Others
in Faith**

1 Numbers
6.22-27

SUNDAY

2 Deuteronomy
10.12-22
3 Deuteronomy
11.1-17
4 Deuteronomy
11.18-32
5 Joshua 23.1-16
6 Joshua 24.1-13
7 Joshua 24.14-28
8 Ruth 1.1-22

SUNDAY

9 Ezra 3.1-7
10 Ezra 3.8-13
11 Ezra 5.1-17
12 Ezra 6.1-12
13 Ezra 6.13-22
14 Ezra 7.1-10
15 Ezra 7.11-28

SUNDAY

16 Nehemiah
2.1-10
17 Nehemiah
2.11-20
18 Nehemiah
5.14-19
19 Nehemiah
6.15-7.4
20 Haggai 1.1-15

21 Haggai 2.1-9
22 Haggai 2.10-23

SUNDAY

23 1 Thessalonians
1.1-10
24 1 Thessalonians
2.1-16
25 1 Thessalonians
2.17-3.13
26 1 Thessalonians
4.1-12
27 1 Thessalonians
4.13-5.11
28 1 Thessalonians
5.12-28
29 2 Thessalonians
1.1-12

SUNDAY

30 2 Thessalonians
2.1-17
31 2 Thessalonians
3.1-18

AUGUST 2000

**A Fresh Beginning by
Trusting in God's
Mercy and Kindness**

1 Psalm 11
2 Psalm 16
3 Psalm 23
4 Psalm 25
5 Psalm 27
6 Psalm 28
7 Psalm 30
8 Psalm 31

SUNDAY

9 Psalm 32
10 Psalm 34
11 Psalm 35
12 Psalm 36

SUNDAY

13 Psalm 61
14 Psalm 62
15 Psalm 63
16 Psalm 71
17 Psalm 73
18 Psalm 91
19 Psalm 103

SUNDAY

20 Genesis
50.15-21
21 2 Samuel
19.8b-23
22 2 Samuel
19.24-30
23 2 Samuel
19.31-40
24 Isaiah 55.1-13
25 Jeremiah
30.1-11
26 Jeremiah
30.12-24

SUNDAY

27 Jeremiah 31.1-14
28 Jeremiah
31.15-26
29 Jeremiah
31.31-40
30 Jeremiah
33.1-13
31 Matthew
18.21-35

PLEASE PRAY

Burundi—The socio-political crisis continues with ethnic hatred frequently flaring up. The tension is aggravated by the nation's economy hitting rock bottom. But we thank God for the distribution he allows us to achieve, and for the revision of the Kirundi Bible started late last year.

Mauritania—Churches cannot openly promote the Scriptures here due to worship restrictions and violent anti-Christian fervor. Pray for strength and spiritual growth for church members, for the quiet witness of those who make a stance for Christ, and that all may receive Bibles they need.

Niger—We thank the Lord for the creation of the United Churches of Niger, which is an encouragement to Christians in this Muslim-majority country.

South Korea—Thank God for making it possible to launch an official website on the Internet by the Korean Bible Society. This year's theme for the Bible Society here is "Using the Bible." Please pray that the development of multimedia formats will continue to inspire Korean Christian youth.

Vietnam—Praise God for the growing opportunities for Scripture production and distribution among Roman Catholics and Protestants. Pray for the ongoing translation and revision projects. Also pray for the protection of Bible work here, so that more Vietnamese can receive the Good News. 📖



Summer Christmas Campaign Offers Comfort to the World's Poor

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2.9-11 (KJV)

Dear *Record* reader,

Can you imagine the incredible excitement of that first Christmas night!

A sense of sheer joy must have swept over those humble shepherds as the angel calmed their fears and announced the glorious news of our Savior's birth.

Isn't it wonderful to know that we too can share that same joyous news with a world in desperate need of the Christmas message?

That's why we're working around the clock right now in preparation for Christmas.

You may be wondering why so soon... Christmas is still months away!

That's very true! And it's hard to believe in this day of instant Internet access and overnight deliveries that it takes months of planning and preparation to deliver Scripture to many areas of the world. But it does!

And that's why we are turning to you right now.

We want to reach out to people who live in areas so remote they can't be reached by planes or even trucks! And we want to bring the joy of

Scripture into lives disrupted by war, famine, and natural disasters. All of this takes time and planning!

There's such suffering in the world today!

In Timor, the ravages of war have devastated the lives of thousands. Bible workers report that conditions in refugee camps are often horrendous. Refugees live in dirt and squalor.

Many of the refugees had to flee with only the belongings they could carry. One man grabbed just two possessions: his treasured Bible and his glasses.

"We have given out all the Bibles you left us, but there were not enough to go round," said one of the pastors at a refugee camp.

Though the Indonesian Bible Society responded immediately by distributing Scripture throughout the camps, many still wait for their own copy of the Bible to see them through these incredibly harsh times!

How in the world would anyone be able to survive such horrible loss without clinging to the eternal hope found in Scripture!

They, and millions of others around the world, need God's Word so desperately!

Please pray that this will be the Christmas when they receive the greatest gift of all—God's precious Word!

Thank you in advance for your generosity. May the Lord richly bless you and yours for your faithfulness. 📖 —Eugene B. Habecker

(Information on how you can give can be obtained by reading the back cover of this magazine.)



Above: This girl was able to receive a Bible Comic in a refugee camp in Soe, Timor, thanks to the Indonesian Bible Society and your donations. (Photo by Geoffrey Stamp, United Bible Societies)

Above, left: This refugee relies on her grandson to read from a Bible supplied by the Indonesian Bible Society. (Photo by Geoffrey Stamp, United Bible Societies)



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
1865 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10023
www.americanbible.org

To Share Joy and Hope for Christmas... Begin Today!



It's hard to believe in this day of instant Internet access and overnight deliveries that it takes months of planning and preparation to deliver Scripture to many areas of the world. But it does!

We want to reach out to people who live in areas so remote they can't be reached by planes or even trucks! And we want to bring the joy of Scripture into

lives disrupted by war, famine and natural disasters. *All of this takes time and planning!*

That's why the American Bible Society is launching of our **Christmas in Summer 2000** campaign to share the greatest gift of all — God's Word.

We want to reach suffering souls this Christmas — like the "river people" of Paraguay ... the people in flooded Mozambique ... the people in war-torn Sudan and famine-stricken Ethiopia. But to do this by December, we need your help today!

Please send a generous gift today with the coupon below to help provide Bibles that can change lives and bring joy for Christmas.

Christmas in Summer 2000 – The work begins today!

☐ **YES**, I want to help provide Bibles through the ABS **Christmas in Summer 2000** campaign, to those people whose lives have been ripped apart by war...for those who live in remote areas plagued with poverty ... for those whose homes have been destroyed by natural disasters.

☐ Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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