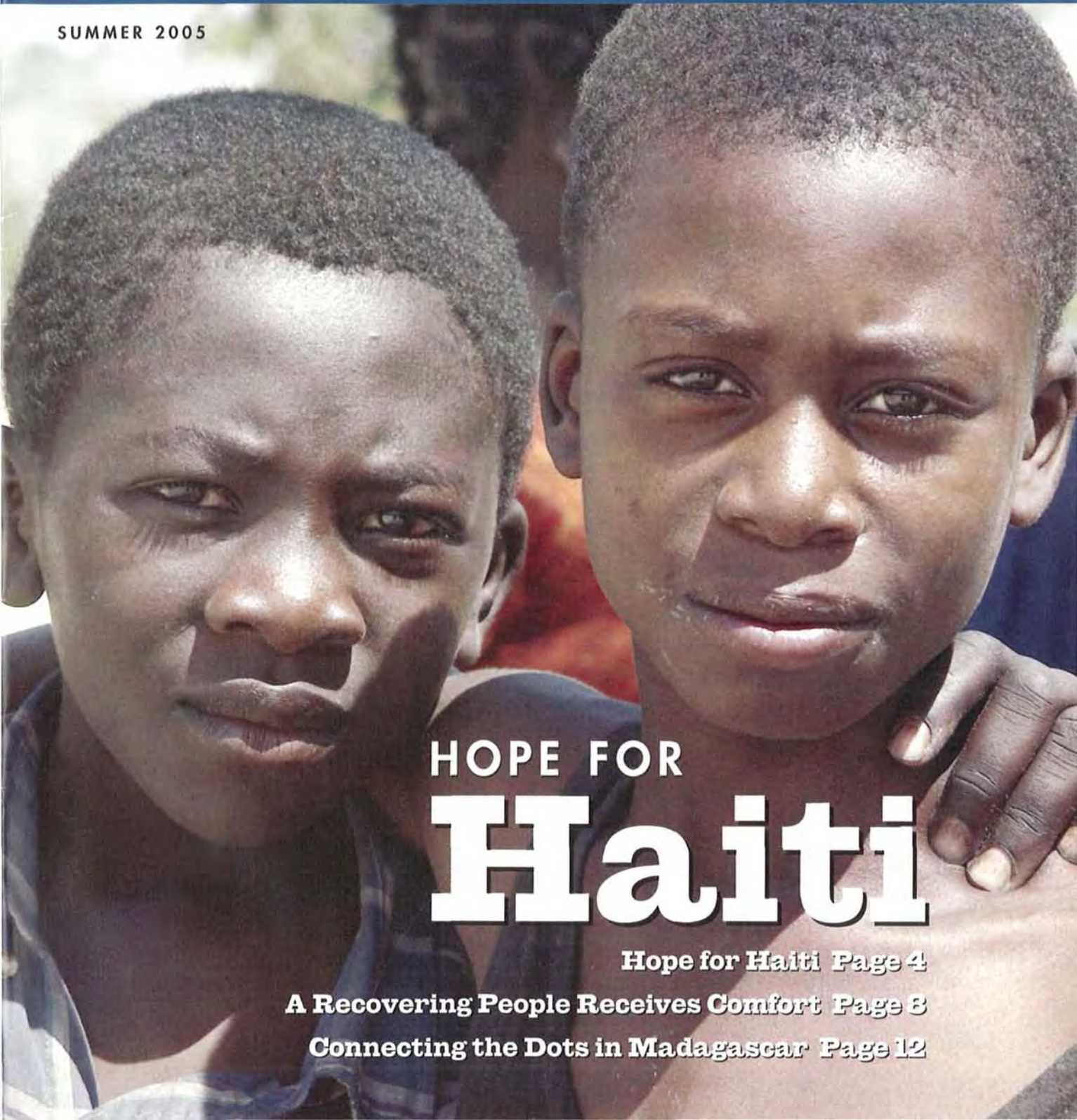


 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

SUMMER 2005



HOPE FOR

Haiti

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Journey Continues

With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment. Always let him lead you, and he will clear the road for you to follow. Proverbs 3:5-6 (CEV)

As some of you may already know, I have been invited to become the president of my alma mater, Taylor University. The announcement of this new opportunity comes with mixed feelings for my wife Marylou and I because it is not easy to say good-bye after 14 years of watching God work through the American Bible Society. But we feel that the Lord is leading us to a new chapter of service — to be directly engaged in preparing the next generation of Christian leaders — and so we will return to the very same campus in Indiana where Marylou and I first met. From there we will continue to joyfully serve as donors and volunteers as we remain passionately committed to the Bible cause and the life-changing ministry of the American Bible Society.

God, through the power of his Word — a Word made more accessible through the innovative products, programs and efforts of the American Bible Society — will continue to expand his Kingdom of faith, without limit. We long, with the prophet Habakkuk, “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Hab. 2:14 NKJV) I know of no other Christian organization better prepared and poised to be used by God for his purposes in the coming decade than the American Bible Society. Our legacy of advocating for the Word has been made possible only through the faithfulness of you, our committed donors. The Bible Society has forged new ways to foster a more intimate connection between you and the fruitfulness of your giving. I am confident that the Bible Society will diligently continue to fulfill this vision over the coming years.

Please be assured that our dear friend and Board chairman, Dr. Lamar Vest, is devoted, with the Board search committee, to prayerfully finding the best person to “take the Bible Society to the next level” of the journey. The American Bible Society is also very blessed to have Dr. Paul Irwin, another dear friend and Board member, serving in the role of interim president during the transition period.

Please continue to support the Bible Society with your own prayers. For, whomever the Lord provides to serve as the next president, the Bible Society’s mission will remain unchanged — to connect people with God’s Word so all people will experience the life-changing message of the Bible.

Thank you for all you do to help us in fulfilling Christ’s great commission.



Eugene B. Habecker

RECORD

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Director, Publications & Executive Editor
David Singer

Managing Editor
Francine Lange

Writer
Liz Smith

Design and Production
Journey Group, Inc.

e-mail
absrecord@americanbible.org

The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of Bible societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

Published continually since 1818, the *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of the American Bible Society and the second oldest publication in the United States. It is published six times per year, and is sent to as many of our supporters as budget allows, including anyone contributing \$20 or more in a year to the Society. Postage is paid at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. Other publications are encouraged to reprint the text of any *Record* articles, but prior written permission must be obtained from the *American Bible Society Record* to reproduce any images. Publications reprinting the text of *Record* articles must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the *Record* at 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023. (ISSN 0006-801)

ON THE COVER:
Boys live under a tarp on a gravel riverbed, where the town of Fonds Verettes, in Haiti, stood before the flood.

(Photograph by David Singer)



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

SUMMER 2005 | VOLUME 150, NUMBER 4

LOOK FORWARD to some exciting updates in the next issue of the RECORD. It will be the debut of the new Special Edition format, which will highlight even more life-changing Scripture projects.

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IN MEMORIAM

Our loved ones remembered



Steve Saint with the surviving Wodani warriors who participated in the killings in 1956. All are "God followers" today.

(Photograph courtesy of Bearing Fruit Communications)

PLEASE PRAY

FRANCE > Praise God that *La Bible Expliquée* (*The Bible Explained*), an interconfessional edition using the easy-to-read and lively *Français Courant* (contemporary) translation, has been completed after six years' work. Pray that it will reach the broad audience for which it is intended. Pray also for the translation of the Bible into sign language for French-speaking deaf people.

HAITI > Please pray for the Haitian Bible Society staff, who are witnessing major unrest on the street in front of their Bible House — people have been starting fires and two people were kidnapped. Please pray that despite the unrest, the Word of God would touch many more hearts there.

ITALY > Please pray for the work by the Bible Society in Rome, including the revision of the interconfessional *Common Language Old Testament*; our collab-

orative revision of the Protestant Bible; the literary ecumenical translation of the New Testament; and public Bible-reading events in major towns.

PORTUGAL > Praise God for the Bible Society of Portugal's *Handwritten Bible* project, which brought many people in contact with the Scriptures for the first time. Praise also for our largest New Testament printing to date — an edition of 120,000 New Testaments distributed free during Euro 2004; pray that people will read God's Word and let it penetrate their hearts.

SPAIN > Give thanks for the forthcoming launch of the *Biblia Traducción Interconfesional* (*Interconfessional Bible*); the 20,000 Bibles donated to Cuba; the special distribution surrounding the film *The Passion of the Christ*; the funds raised for seven Braille Bibles; Scripture distribution to prisons, hospitals and North African migrants. ■



We encourage you to send your letters to: Editor, American Bible Society Record, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: 212-408-8754. Note: For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the Record, please call 212-408-1200. www.americانبible.org



HOPE FOR

Haiti

REACHING OUT ON MANY LEVELS

Story and photographs by David Singer



Bedlam reigns. In the capital city of Port-au-Prince, rows of boarded-up shops sit vacant. Crowded on the sidewalks out front, vendors in makeshift stalls hawk everyday necessities: sandals, mangoes, bottled water, used tires, batteries, toothpaste. Pedestrians edge into the streets, vying with vehicles for space.

A mini pickup, one of many converted for bus service, stops to discharge a passenger, halting the bumper-to-bumper traffic. Many vehicles lie abandoned, stripped skeletons along the roadside. Crushed cans and flattened plastic bottles, camouflaged in dry mud, line the curbs.

By contrast, a small group of students making their way to school in smartly pressed uniforms — gingham shirts of blue and white matched to navy slacks or skirts — weaves through the maelstrom. More than half the population, some 1.6 million, are teenagers or younger. This spot of “polish” in the tattered surroundings suggests that there remains a small reserve of hope — a commitment to cultivate this precious resource of young people — in which the Bible Society of Haiti has taken a keen interest.

Touching Young Lives

Over the last few years the Bible Society has provided primary and secondary schools, both private and public, with nearly a quarter of a million copies of *The Book of Hope*, a 66-page magazine that relates the Scriptures to the kinds of life situations young people face. In many schools these magazines, in both French and Creole (Haiti’s two official languages), serve as the core for religious education.

Jimmy, a 10th grader at Elim Secondary School says, “From this book I learned how I should live. I received Christ after reading this book — it changed my life.”

Sophia, a student at the public school in Petonville, near the capital, says, “This book talks about the life of Jesus . . . It shows how to live with God in your life and what respect you should have for others. If young people read this book they can change their lives.”

Jacqueline Dorleans, administrative director at Excelsior, one of Haiti's many private Christian schools, begins her day leading the student body in prayer. She also teaches religious education to several grades. She says, "We ask students to reflect on diverse problems, like drugs and sexuality. They learn how to live like a Christian in this world." She says, "In addition to *The Book of Hope* the Bible Society provides the school with Bibles and Scripture tracts that apply to the daily lives of the students; we use them in class discussions." She reasons, "Students here take classes [such as] chemistry, physics, math and other sciences that enable them to have a profession. But the Word of God is essential to life. If we fail to teach this, we fail them in life."

She says that because of all that happened in Haiti, the floods and hurricanes and political turmoil, belief in God is an invaluable resource "to help us get through difficult times." Unfortunately, according to the Haitian Bible Society's general secretary, Magda Victor, more than one third of

The Bible Society invests in Haiti's future by providing schools with age-appropriate Scriptures. ▶



Haiti's children are left out of the educational process. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Eighty percent of its people live in poverty. The nation's infrastructure remains in tatters from neglect — from floods and a hurricane that struck nearly two years ago.

Making a Difference

Against this somber backdrop the Bible Society has shown that God cares, and so do people of faith living in other countries.

Several hours' drive southeast of Port-au-Prince is the mountain village of Fonds Verettes. Before the flood, it was home to some 45,000 people. Several thousand remain, living under tarps on the gravel riverbed. Nearby, priest Pierre Etienne Belno sits on some stones where his church once stood. He explains, "Our first church was damaged by a hurricane in 1994. After Hurricane Georges [1998] the Bible Society gave our parish Bibles. All those were lost in the recent flood. After the flood, the Bible Society came back with more Bibles. Right now, with the Bible Society's help, we're trying to reconstruct a new church up the hill."

From a neighboring area comes the sound of hymn singing. Inside a small church, Pastor Sylvio Joseph prepares to conduct a Bible study. He is grateful for 10 Bibles given by the Bible Society follow-

◀ **General Secretary Magda Victor discusses next steps with the Haitian team working on the first study Bible in Creole.**



From this book I learned how I should live. I received Christ after reading this book — it changed my life.

— Jimmy, 10th grade

ing the flood. He says, "Ten is significant. But we need more — our people have to share Bibles." He adds, "We need Bibles, but our means are limited — so it's crucial that we have assistance."

Following the flood, the Bible Society responded by providing churches in the area with 20,000 Bibles and 10,000 Scripture selections. Months later, when Hurricane Jeanne left 250,000 people homeless, the Bible Society again responded, placing what Scriptures they had on hand in food baskets. Magda Victor explains, "We linked up with Christian aid agencies in order to fill two of the most basic needs of the people — food for the body and food for the soul."

The Word: Accessible and Affordable

Through a new Scripture literacy program, the Bible Society is also offering hope to older Haitians. Program Director Gladys Alexander says, "I hold seminars with pastors, teaching them how to work with the materials. When, after evaluation, we know attendees have learned to read, we give them certificates and a New Testament of their own."

One student, Joseph Sillien, says, "Before learning to read, I couldn't qualify for the job I wanted. Now I'm able to read the Bible. When I do, I draw strength; it brings me closer to God."

To help deepen the faith of Haitians like Joseph, the Bible Society has embarked on an

◀ **Inside a small church, Bible study is possible because of Bibles given by the Bible Society.**



▲ **These boys are living under tarps on the gravel riverbed where the town of Fonds Verettes once stood. Before the flood, it was home to some 45,000 people.**

ambitious translation project, a Creole Study Bible. Nelson Saldac, one of the five pastors involved, says it has taken a year just to write an introduction to each book of the Bible, the first phase of the project. "It's a project for which we have great passion — to help readers clearly understand the Bible."

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

Then Magda's mood brightens. "Yesterday at a church, I ran into our accountant, one of the most respected in Haiti. She has audited the Bible Society's books for many years. She is so impressed with the work that we do and with [our] efficiency, she decided to make a donation. She gave an extraordinary 200,000 gourdes." 🇸🇰

To find out how you, too, can touch the lives of Haitians, go to our Web site at www.americanbible.org



The American Bible Society joins with Every Tribe Entertainment to promote the big-screen drama of missionaries murdered on assignment in the Amazon Jungle.

BEYOND THE GATES OF SPLENDOR

*The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
(Luke 19:10 (GNV))*

Fifty years ago five American men lost their lives attempting to befriend Auca tribesmen isolated from the world in the upper reaches of the Amazon basin. The missionaries, driven to evangelize the Auca people by the conviction that they were “not ready for heaven and we are,” also knew the dangers. The Aucas had the highest homicide rate of any people group in history — 60 percent — and the tribe was on a road to extinction.

The “moment of truth” came on Jan. 8, 1956, when Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint and Roger Youderian set their light plane down on a sandbar in the river and were speared to death by the men with whom they meant to share the love of Jesus. Their young bereaved wives courageously took up the work that their husbands had set out to do. They returned to the jungle with their babies, and learned the language of the *Waadani*, “the people,” reaching hearts with the grace of God’s Word. Years later, Mincaye, a *Waadani*, said, “We acted badly, badly, until they brought us God’s carvings [Scripture]. Now we walk his trail.”

Every major news outlet told this story in 1956, including *Life* magazine, and later one of the widows, Elisabeth Elliot, wrote her personal account, *Through the Gates of*

Splendor. Nearly 50 years later, a documentary, *Beyond the Gates of Splendor*, based on Elisabeth’s book, has been released to church congregations across the United States and will be available as a DVD in stores in October.

Steve Saint, the son of missionary pilot Nate Saint, narrates the film, and now he and his family live with the *Waadani*, the same people who murdered his father. The document-

ary tells the story of how “faith can transform tragedy into triumph, how courage can overcome insurmountable obstacles and how death can teach a family how to live.”

This coming January, for the 50th anniversary

of the slayings, Every Tribe Entertainment will release *End of the Spear*, a major motion picture depicting the story of these 20th-century martyrs and the redemption of their killers.

“The American Bible Society is excited to participate with Every Tribe Entertainment to show the power of the Word of God to change lives through this dramatic story of reconciliation,” said Eugene B. Habecker, president of the American Bible Society.

For more information about ordering the documentary for your church or ministry, visit www.beyondthegatesthemovie.com or call 1-800-695-9847.

“They killed my dad. They adopted me.

They threw his body in the river. They baptized me there.

The world called them Aucas and knew them as savages.

I call them Waadani, ‘the people,’ and know them as family.

The difference? – God’s grace and the power of His Word.”

STEVE SAINT

BY LIZ SMITH



A Recovering People

SCRIPTURES FOR A NEW CAMBODIA

By James Walker

READING THE BOOK OF LIFE

Four boys and three girls enter the Bible House reading room in Phnom Penh and peruse the rows of Scripture comics. Vong Bopha, the accountant for the Bible Society of Cambodia, invites them to sit down and begins reading a story from one of the comics; children crowd around to get a glimpse of the drawings. After finishing, she asks them to recall significant moments from the story.

Vong Bopha, who also oversees this reading room, says, "Children and teenagers from the nearby school stop by to visit in the afternoon. We provide a variety of Scriptures in many formats, including Scripture comics and videos."



The Mekong River runs from the mountains in south China through Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. One of the largest rivers in the world, it serves as the central transportation artery for the major cities, small farms and villages that line its banks. The Mekong also serves as a conduit for God's Word.

A boat slowly makes its way up the river. Though the current is gentle, the motor strains to push the cargo-laden vessel forward, out of the bustle of Phnom Penh and into Cambodia's quiet countryside.

Sitting with the cargo is Yos Em Sithan, the general secretary of the Bible Society of Cambodia. She is bringing God's Word to the forgotten children of Rong Veng, a small, isolated island village some 35 miles north of Phnom Penh. "No one cares about them," she says. "Even the government doesn't pay attention to their needs." This village, she says, has also been overlooked by many of the humanitarian organizations that are providing relief to the country after years of civil war and poverty.

The 78 extended families (about 740 people) in Rong Veng are mostly young adults and children, typical of many villages in Cambodia. Rong Veng is considered a Christian village because it has a church — a small hut with open windows and a thatched roof — in the center of the village.

The half-dozen boxes brought in by the Bible Society contain New Testaments in Khmer, Cambodia's official language. Yos Em Sithan and the staff of the Korean Service in Cambodia (KSSA) unload the boat and bring the New Testaments into the church. In order to draw a crowd, staffers sing hymns while clapping out a rhythm. Villagers gradually drift in and are greeted with smiles and hugs. As the small hut begins to fill, many gather outside at the windows and doorway, trying to get a

Cambodia

Receives Comfort

glimpse of what's going on. The pastor begins to talk about the Scriptures while others hand out the New Testaments.

Teaching from the Bible

Across the street school is in session. The small, one-room classroom holds two dozen students ranging in age from 9 to 16. The Cambodian government has begun a campaign to raise the literacy level throughout the country but does not have sufficient resources. The Bible Society of Cambodia, as well as other Christian ministries and humanitarian organizations, has stepped in to provide the necessary materials.

Today, the government-assigned teacher, Young Thol, copies a Bible verse onto the blackboard. Turning to the class, he recites the sentence and using a crude stick points to each word as he reads. The students, standing at attention by their desks, respond as one, shouting the sentence back to the teacher. This process goes on for a half hour, until the instructor is satisfied.

As a result of this teaching, Young Thol began to understand the Bible message. "Finally I believed in Jesus," he says. "It seems that I was inspired by the Holy Spirit through reading the Bible Society's literacy book."

Training for Life

This scene highlights one aspect of Bible Society ministry to the young. Starting in the small settlements and villages along the Mekong near Phnom Penh, the Bible Society hopes to reach all 22 provinces, sharing the Good News with everyone born after 1979, the official end of the reign of terror against the Cambodian people by the Khmer Rouge.

Workshops, like the one in Rong Veng, are providing training for nearly 500 young people, who will then travel deeper into the country, using God's Word to teach the basics of reading and writing to young people. The Bible Society's goal — to provide New Testaments and other Scripture materials to more than 10,000 young people — will offer hope and new life to a generation growing up in the shadow of a destructive era. 🇰🇲

To learn more about ministry to the young around the globe and how you can help the Bible Society of Cambodia achieve their goal, visit www.americanbible.org.



BIBLE IN THE NEWS

Antidote to Stress

■ When *AARP* magazine asked six “stress veterans” over the age of 85 to share their secrets to remaining physically and mentally strong, they included varied factors such as regular bridge and tennis games, a sense of humor and notably, prayer.

One 86-year-old, Grace Nunery, a longtime minister's wife, began a ministry to the deaf that evolved into a summer-camp program for kids from around the globe.

Ms. Nunery told *AARP* that, “God put the deaf ministry in my path, I'm quite sure of it. And when it got tough, I prayed. . . . My favorite Bible verse is: Don't worry about anything, pray about everything and always be thankful.”

A Seed of Biblical Proportions Sprouts in Jerusalem

■ “Israeli doctors and scientists have succeeded in germinating a date seed nearly 2,000 years old. The seed, nicknamed Methuselah, was taken from an excavation at Masada, the cliff fortress where, in A.D. 73, 960 Jewish zealots died by their own hand, rather than surrender to a Roman assault,” reported Steven Erlanger in *The New York Times* in June. The seedling is now a plant nearly a foot tall

and has produced seven leaves. Mr. Erlanger went on to cite Psalm 92, “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age. They shall be fat and flourishing.”



Dr. Billy Graham

■ In anticipation of his final gospel crusade in New York City, Dr. Billy Graham appeared on CNN's *Larry King Live show*, telling Larry, “I'm glad to tell you tonight that Jesus Christ, the son of God, has an answer to every problem that you face. . . . He can forgive every sin, break any coil



DAVID SINGER

▲ Billy Graham being interviewed in 1981.

and rope and chain of habit that may be binding you at this moment and stop any lashing conscience that may be bothering you because of your sins.”

Dr. Graham spoke to nearly a quarter-million people over three days in Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, New York; according to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Web site, more than “9,400 people of all ages and widely varying nationalities had committed their lives to Jesus Christ.”

Andy Newman in *The New York Times*, wrote, “Mr. Graham chose from the Scripture the familiar story of Jesus and Nicodemus. Nicodemus, a professor and a rich man, went to see Jesus preach and peppered him with spiritual questions. ‘Jesus said, Nicodemus, you're a great man,’ Mr. Graham recalled in an even baritone. ‘But you lack one thing. You must be born again.’”

Dr. Graham has said, “The greatest evangelist in the world is the published Word of God. The greatest method of evangelism is the distribution of the Scriptures. Thus, the American Bible Society has been one of the greatest evangelistic agencies in the history of the Christian church.” ■

A Life Change in Malawi


Landlocked Malawi — nestled between Zambia and Mozambique — ranks as one of the least developed countries in Africa. On one fifth of the terrain lies the beautiful Lake Nyasa, teeming with fish, and on its humid shores farmers grow rice. From there the ground rises steeply, where tea and tobacco thrive on plateaus in the cooler air. Ninety percent of the country's 12 million residents live in mud huts and till small plots of land, also producing corn, root crops, sugarcane, peanuts and cotton. Recent droughts and famine, floods and the HIV/AIDS epidemic have battered a republic that subsists at a near-poverty level in a good year.

To respond to the need, the Bible Society of Malawi is hard at work distributing Scripture selections aimed at giving hope to those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Despite these challenges, Malawians seem to have an insatiable appetite for the Word of God and the church is growing rapidly. The Bible Society, situated in the city of Blantyre, launched a *Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH)* Scripture listening program, and now more than 600 listening groups have been established.

Mrs. Phiri, a member of one local listening group, describes the dramatic change in her husband, who she said had been a violent man. "Apart from beating me whenever he came home drunk, he was a womanizer who often slept out," she said. She encouraged her husband to begin attending, with dramatic results. "When he joined the group, his lifestyle changed almost immediately," she explained. "He no longer beats me and he comes home early and sober. He is now a caring husband and we are now members of our local congregation."



Your **August** gift will help support Bible work in southern Africa. Your **September** gift will support Bible work in Mexico and Central America. Your **October** gift will go toward Bible work in Southeast Asia. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below or write to:

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CONNECTING the DOTS in Madag

REACHING THE BLIND, THE YOUNG AND THE ILLITERATE IN MADAGASCAR

By Francine Lange



A child sits at her desk staring straight ahead, her face a study in concentration. Noeline Rafaramanana feels for the corner of a book, then slowly opens it. There's no printing. Instead, tiny raised dots line up across the page in neat rows. As the 11-year-old runs her fingers along the textured page, she "reads" aloud a Scripture verse.

Noeline, along with more than 70 classmates, attends the primary school in Foibe Fanabezana Ny Jamba Antsirabe for the blind in Madagascar, which also offers vocational training in agriculture, chicken

breeding, weaving and knitting.

"Some [of the children] were born blind due to a vitamin A deficiency," says a former director of the school, adding, ". . . some became blind as a result of contracting an infection."

Founded in 1924, this Lutheran school, the only school for the blind in the country, also runs the only Braille printing center — a joint operation between the Malagasy Bible Society, the United Bible Societies and the international Christian relief organization Christoffel Blinden Mission. The Malagasy Braille Bible Noeline reads from was published at the printing center.

Country of the Young

The Bible Society serves the blind (about 10 percent of the population) by providing the Bible in Braille, a format they can "read." It also works to reach some one million young people between the ages of 11 and 14 who have never attended school or dropped out. More than half of this island country's 18 million people live in poverty, and many families enlist their children to help supply the most basic needs.

"We have a problem in Madagascar . . . especially in the more rural areas," says Marc Rakoto, general secretary of the Malagasy Bible Society. "Children . . . think that education isn't necessary because they

a.s.c.a.r

are destined to work on the farms to earn a living.”

The high dropout rate translates into a companion reality. “We have a problem with people losing their reading skills,” says Tsiry Razafimanomjy, the Bible Society’s program director. More than 40 percent cannot read, but functional illiteracy may be as high as 70 percent. “We are still deeply entrenched in an oral culture,” Marc says, “but it has also become a radio- and audiocassette-listening culture.”

Listening Centers Multiply

Using this oral orientation to guide ministry, the Bible Society currently broadcasts a weekly television program and two radio programs, *Take and Read* and *The Bible Brings Development*, to spark a desire for God’s Word. “For many, this is [their] only interaction with the Scriptures,” says Father Jean Emile Rakotondranaivo of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Antsirabe.

The radio programs are made possible through American Bible Society partner *Faith Comes By Hearing*, which provides audio Scriptures for people who cannot read or who have no access to a printed Bible. For those too poor to own a cassette player, Scripture listening centers have opened in Antsirabe and Fianarantsoa, where residents gather to listen to the recordings.

Although the Malagasy Bible Society drew from *Opportunity 21* funding to support this outreach, that program has ended while the need remains. Marc says that the plea he hears constantly is: “Help us with Bibles.” His confident response: “We shall trust God to provide what is needed.”



VOICE OF HOPE > Inmates at the prison in Antsirabe are provided only one meal a day and must rely on their families for additional food. Minor offenders share cells with violent criminals and those serving life sentences. Eighty percent of the inmates cannot read and only a few have Bibles.

In these dismal conditions enters a woman bearing a “voice” of hope. Working with the Balsam of Hope organization, Hanitra Radavid ministers to the inmates every Thursday, from 8 a.m. until noon, playing *Faith Comes By Hearing* Scripture tapes to a listening group of 130 or more.

One prisoner stands to share his experience: “When I was sent to jail, I didn’t know God. But by listening to the tapes, I got to know him. I have seen the power of the Word in my life and the change that has happened.”

Hanitra says, “Hearing an account like that makes this very difficult ministry worthwhile. It really gives me joy to help these people to come to accept the Lord Jesus in their lives.”

Visit www.americanbible.org to read more articles about how the Bible is changing lives or to contribute to this ministry. This article was written with information from Françoise Sieberhagen, a United Bible Societies media consultant.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH N. TAYLOR

May 8, 1917 – June 10, 2005



DAVID SINGER

Gifted with a vigorous faith, an editorial mind and a fatherly heart, Ken Taylor lamented that there was little Scriptural material available for he and his wife, Margaret, to read to their children. When the kids brought home their Sunday school lessons, Ken began hand-writing the stories that went with the pictures, gauging the clarity of his efforts by their response. Thus the seeds were

“I learned that prayer brings power, but character grows through reading and obeying the Word of God.”

— Ken Taylor, from his autobiography, *My Life: A Guided Tour*

planted for what would become *The Living Bible*.

That was in the early 1950s. Ken continued writing for his children, completing *Living Letters* in 1962. Not able to find a publisher for his biblical paraphrase, Ken decided to self-publish, naming their publishing company after William Tyndale from the 16th century, who was mar-

tyred for translating the Bible into English. Sales limped along until Billy Graham endorsed *Living Letters*, offering it to his viewing audience. In the years following, Ken paraphrased the remaining Scriptures.

The Living Bible was the nation’s best-selling book from 1971 to 1974 and has sold 40 million copies. It is available today in more than 100 languages.

Dr. Robert Hodgson, Jr., dean of the Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the Bible Society, says, “Kenneth Taylor towers over 20th-century Bible translation, earning a place alongside Eugene Nida, Kenneth Pike and W. Cameron Townsend. Thanks to Ken Taylor’s publication of *The Living Bible* as well as his founding of Tyndale House Publishers and the Christian Booksellers Association, the Bible engages millions of people around the world in words that are fresh and eminently readable.”

Ken Taylor graduated from Wheaton College where he majored in zoology. But, as an undergraduate, he struggled with his belief in God. Ultimately, Ken said, God “reached out and grabbed me and pulled me back,” at which time he surrendered his life to many fruitful years of Christian service. His education continued at Dallas Theological Seminary and Northern Baptist Seminary, and he holds several honorary degrees. He is credited with playing integral roles in launching other major Christian organizations, including Focus on the Family.

Ken Taylor is survived by his wife Margaret, 10 children, 28 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Ken’s son Mark is currently the president of Tyndale House. Mark told the *Chicago Sun Times*, “Making Scripture accessible for all people was my father’s passion. . . . Even at 88 years old, his enthusiasm and fervor for his work never waned.” ■

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update

NATIONAL

■ A CALL TO HISPANIC LEADERS

In May, the American Bible Society hosted a forum on Latino leadership and the challenges facing the urban Latino church. Event organizer and presenter, the Rev. Dr. Marc Rivera, senior pastor at Primitive Christian Church in Manhattan, called the meeting, inviting key religious and professional Hispanic leaders to discuss ways Latino churches can make a positive difference in their communities.

Referring to the high rate of Hispanics in jails, the crisis in education and the suffering of so many undocumented men, women and children, David Ramos, former director of Programs and now director of Church Relations at the American Bible Society, told the Spanish language newspaper *El Diario La Prensa* that problems that have received inadequate attention need to be addressed.

"This is an historic meeting," David said, "and in hosting such events, the Bible Society aims to promote a dialogue among intergenerational leadership to join forces in leveraging the necessary resources to help strengthen the Hispanic church."

Guest speaker Joel Klein, New



▲ From left: Pastor Marc Rivera, Chancellor Joel Klein and the Bible Society's David Ramos



■ RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN ART

Four Laws: I, II, III, IV, 2004; oil on board, by Peter Sheesly. The four panels represent Campus Crusade's Four Spiritual Laws. From *The Next Generation: Contemporary Expressions of Faith*, an exhibition on display from August 20 through November 13 at the Museum of Biblical Art, 1865 Broadway at 61st Street, New York City.

York City Chancellor of Education, challenged the group of 100 Hispanic pastors, ministry and community leaders and marketplace professionals to "use your pulpit to speak to the people about the importance of these issues. You have the loudest microphones, take care to use them."

■ A MORE PORTABLE JUBILEE BIBLE

Embodying the spirit of Jubilee, a Bible that broke new ground when the American Bible Society first released it in 1999, now comes in a more compact hardcover King James Version that is also less expensive than its leather-bound predecessor.

The African American Jubilee Edition Bible remains distinctive with its 350 pages of supplementary material that chronicles the role of Africans in the Bible and their religious experience during the time of slavery in the United States. Its rich narrative, written by leading African American scholars, focuses on racial reconciliation from the African American perspective and gives a context for revering Scripture's Jubilee tradition.

Copies of this 1,450-page treasure may be purchased at www.americanbible.org (click on Bibles.com) or by calling toll free 1-800-322-4253. ■



■ This PROJECT B.E.A.U.T.I. (Bible Engagement and Urban Teen Initiatives, a program directed by the American Bible Society) mural was unveiled in Baltimore at New Song Community Church as a beacon of hope to the inner-city neighborhood where it is seen. The image references Revelation 21.10, 11, "The Spirit took control of me, and the angel carried me to the top of a very high mountain. He showed me Jerusalem, the Holy City, coming down out of heaven from God and shining with the glory of God." (GNT)

■ RWANDA

Nobody knows the exact number of people lost to the genocide that took place in Rwanda from April to June 1994, but estimates count between 800,000 and one million. Another three million people fled the country, and the functions of state, including the police, judiciary and prisons, collapsed.

Once government authority was re-established, nearly 130,000 people accused of taking part in the killings were imprisoned, further paralyzing the prison and justice systems. Ten years later most of these people still languish in jails, awaiting trial. For years, the Bible Society of Rwanda has provided Scriptures and Scripture tapes (from *Faith Comes By Hearing*) to the men and women ministering in the prisons.

One Bible worker, Adele Sefuku, tells the amazing story of her relationship with the young man who killed her husband. "This is not



▲ Adele Sefuku and Louis Kagabo

about me but about God and the love and strength he gave me," she said. When her husband and other family members were murdered in the genocide, instead of letting bitterness fill her heart she began a ministry among the imprisoned. It was through this ministry that she met her husband's killer, Louis Kagabo. Upon his release from prison, she took him into her home and treated him as a son. With Adele's spiritual and financial support, Louis was able to rebuild his life.

"After hearing the Word of God, prisoners have become aware of what happened in their country and have realized their responsibility for it," said the Rev. Anasthase Kajugiro, general secretary of the Bible Society of Rwanda.

■ IRAQ

Families living in some of Baghdad's most devastated areas were drawn to local churches the week before Easter by news that food and Bibles were being handed out. Hundreds of people who normally don't attend went to the churches to receive their own packages. The Bible Society in Lebanon worked with other Christian humanitarian agencies for this outreach. Nabil Omeish, who leads the Bible Society's team in Iraq, said that he felt "enormously blessed" to see people's positive reactions to the gifts. "The joy was apparent in the eyes of adults as well as children," he said. ■



■ O M A N

Some 400 children from 20 expatriate congregations in Muscat, the capital of Oman, participated in a Vacation Bible School in April. Young people received the American Bible Society's *Contemporary English Version Youth Bible*, as well as materials produced by Child Evangelism Fellowship International. Volunteers from participating congregations packed the four-evening program with a variety of interactive Scripture activities, including Bible studies that helped the children gain a clearer understanding of how the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news. ■

quiet time

We hope you will use this guide in your daily study of the Bible. Please write to tell us how you use it.

AUGUST 2005

*Rooted in Christ and
Encouraging Others in Faith*

- 1 Hebrews 10.19-39
- 2 Hebrews 11.1-22
- 3 Hebrews 11.23-40
- 4 Hebrews 12.1-13
- 5 Hebrews 12.14-29
- 6 Ephesians 4.17-5.5

SUNDAY

- 7 Ephesians 5.6-20
- 8 Philippians 1.1-11
- 9 Philippians 1.12-30
- 10 Philippians 2.1-18
- 11 Philippians 2.19-30
- 12 Philippians 3.1-11
- 13 Philippians 3.12-4.1

SUNDAY

- 14 Philippians 4.2-23
- 15 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
- 16 1 Thessalonians 2.1-16
- 17 1 Thessalonians 2.17-3.13
- 18 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
- 19 1 Thessalonians 4.13-5.11
- 20 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28

SUNDAY

- 21 2 Thessalonians 1.1-12
- 22 2 Thessalonians 2.1-17
- 23 2 Thessalonians 3.1-18
- 24 2 Timothy 1.1-18
- 25 2 Timothy 2.1-13
- 26 2 Timothy 2.14-26
- 27 2 Timothy 3.1-9

SUNDAY

- 28 2 Timothy 3.10-4.8
- 29 Titus 1.1-16
- 30 Titus 2.1-15
- 31 Titus 3.1-15

SEPTEMBER 2005

*Rooted in Christ and
Growing in God's Wisdom*

- 1 Matthew 5.1-12
- 2 Matthew 5.13-26
- 3 Matthew 5.27-48

SUNDAY

- 4 Matthew 6.19-34
- 5 Matthew 7.1-14
- 6 Matthew 7.15-29
- 7 Matthew 13.1-23
- 8 Matthew 13.24-43
- 9 Matthew 13.44-58
- 10 Matthew 25.1-13

SUNDAY

- 11 Psalm 1
- 12 Psalm 19
- 13 Psalm 37
- 14 1 Corinthians 1.18-31
- 15 1 Corinthians 2.1-16
- 16 1 Corinthians 3.1-23
- 17 1 Corinthians 6.1-20

SUNDAY

- 18 Psalm 119.1-24
- 19 Psalm 119.25-48
- 20 Psalm 119.49-72
- 21 Psalm 119.73-96
- 22 Psalm 119.97-120
- 23 Psalm 119.121-144
- 24 Psalm 119.145-176

SUNDAY

- 25 Proverbs 3.1-35
- 26 Proverbs 4.1-27
- 27 Proverbs 8.1-36
- 28 Proverbs 14.1-35
- 29 Proverbs 16.1-33
- 30 Ecclesiastes 2.12-3.15

OCTOBER 2005

*Rooted in Christ and
Striving for Peace and Justice*

- 1 Job 34.1-37

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 2 Exodus 20.1-21
- 3 Exodus 23.1-13
- 4 Exodus 23.1-13
- 5 Leviticus 19.1-37
- 6 Leviticus 25.1-34
- 7 Leviticus 25.35-55
- 8 Numbers 27.1-11

SUNDAY

- 9 Deuteronomy 15.1-18
- 10 Deuteronomy 16.9-22
- 11 Joshua 22.1-20
- 12 Joshua 22.21-34
- 13 2 Kings 6.8-23
- 14 2 Kings 8.1-6
- 15 Habakkuk 2.1-20

SUNDAY

- 16 Isaiah 1.1-31
- 17 Isaiah 2.1-22
- 18 Isaiah 3.1-26
- 19 Isaiah 5.1-30
- 20 Isaiah 57.1-21
- 21 Isaiah 58.1-14
- 22 Isaiah 59.1-21

SUNDAY

- 23 Amos 5.1-27
- 24 Micah 6.1-16
- 25 Matthew 23.1-12
- 26 Matthew 23.13-36
- 27 Matthew 25.31-46
- 28 James 1.1-27
- 29 James 2.1-26

SUNDAY

- 30 Psalm 46
- 31 Psalm 85

IN MEMORIAM

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