

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

Spring/Summer 2008

China's Bestseller

Starting New
This Easter

Unstoppable Love:
The Middle East

A Slam Dunk
with the NBA



A Season of Renewal

"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people." 1 PETER 1:3, 4a (GNT)

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! As I write this, it is the beginning of Lent; yet by the time you read this, it will be the Pentecost season. That's the reality of the magazine world. But perhaps it is also a reminder that we can have the joy and privilege of experiencing Easter in our hearts 365 days a year.



I remember a day in my early ministry when Easter truly came alive for me. It was a wintry Easter Sunday in Massachusetts, and I recall passing lilies shrouded by snow as I walked into the church. Because of the bad weather, many people would not be in church. There would be fewer voices singing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

Suddenly it dawned on me that during the spring snowfall, the lilies were still growing. They pushed through the snow, in all their beauty and vigor. They proclaimed a clear message that each one of us, despite problems and difficulties, can raise the triumphant shout of Easter: Christ is Risen!

On that snowy Easter day, the lilies were a profound symbol of resurrection. Because of our risen Lord, we can, like those flowers, bloom wherever we are.

Thank you for "battling the elements" to spend some time with us. I'm happy to report that Kua Wee Seng is the author of our cover story on China and the account of people finding new hope there. I thank you for your continued faithful readership, and if you are one of our readers who answered an e-mail survey in January, I want to thank you also for your valuable feedback.

I wish you all the joy of the season.



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

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Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

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IN THE NEWS

Stolen Bible

Last November a church in Berlin fell victim to a terrible theft. A robber stole a 300-year-old Bible during a service, as well as the contents of the collection box for the poor.

The Martin Luther Church in Berlin's working-class Neukoelln district made an appeal on its Web site: "This Bible won't be easy to sell. It would be smartest just to somehow bring it back." The wood-and-leather-bound book was worth as much as 5,000 euros.

Such a loss was especially hard during the Christmas season. When the theft garnered international attention, the American Bible Society looked into its Bible Collection and discovered it had two copies of the facsimile edition of the first edition of Luther's New Testament. One was promptly sent to Berlin.

Pastor Dieter Spanknebel responded with the following gentle words: "We were very moved when your parcel from faraway New York City arrived. Reading your kind letter and looking at your gift for us, we were lost for speech." Their own Bible has not yet been returned. ■

COVER PHOTO BY DAG SMEMO
COURTESY OF UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

Update FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL



THE AMERICAS

Helping Hands

>> Central and South America have been hit hard by natural disasters. The promise of God's Word in difficult times becomes critically important.

The Bible Society of Peru brought relief to the people of Huancavelica who were affected by a major earthquake last September. The American Bible Society funded the effort, which included the delivery of Scriptures, blankets and zinc roofing sheets.

Elsewhere, the American Bible Society has partnered with Christian relief organizations through local Bible Societies: to supply Scriptures and aid to Bolivia after their mud slides; to Haiti and the West Indies after the Hurricane Dean floods; and to the Dominican Republic after tropical storm Noel.

PERU

Word for Our Times

>> The modern world is changing the ways in which we communicate — sometimes radically. This affects how people hear and read God's Word. The Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship

hosted an international conference to discuss the future of Bible translation.

Top scholars from the fields of linguistics, cultural studies and translation theory joined Nida Institute Dean Dr. Robert Hodgson and Director of Translations Dr. Steven Berneking in Lima, Peru. At this high-altitude meeting, attendees discussed how cooperation across academic disciplines has become absolutely necessary.

The Institute plans to release a publication edited by Dr. Berneking, drawing on addresses and papers presented at the conference.

NATIONAL

NEW JERSEY

B Is for Bible

>> *The Record*, a New Jersey newspaper, ran a story about an after-school program run by the Paterson Salvation Army. The program features "Mission: Literacy" materials from the American Bible Society that help teach reading skills through Scripture.

Dawn Sharp, a child-care consultant for the New Jersey Salvation Army, told the reporter that the organization had

signed an agreement with the American Bible Society to become the sole distributor of the program for the next 10 years. There was no cost to the Salvation Army. So far, the program has also been used at Salvation Army centers in Newark and New Brunswick.



LOCAL CHURCH volunteers wore Take the Word Challenge T-shirts and handed out a special Book of Psalms.

NEW ORLEANS

Slam Dunk Outreach

>> Last November the American Bible Society participated in the first Faith & Family Night at an NBA New Orleans Hornets home game against the San Antonio Spurs. Word Entertainment provided a postgame concert featuring



NEW DEAN ARRIVES

Dr. Philip Towner has been named dean of the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the American Bible Society. He joined the staff in February. He will work alongside Dr. Robert Hodgson, until Dr. Hodgson retires this year after five years of leading the Nida Institute in one of the most esteemed periods in its history.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Towner was the United Bible Societies' Director of Translation Services in Reading, England. He says he looks forward to working with the "extremely gifted and scholarly staff . . . to bring the transforming Word of God to the whole world."

FROM LEFT: PHOTO FROM ©ACE STOCK LIMITED/ALAMY; PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER; PHOTO BY PATRICIA A. WALKER; PHOTO BY BARRY MASON

Point of Grace. Peter Goldsberry, senior vice president of the Hornets, said, "I'm a man of God. . . . I was brought to tears [not because the Hornets lost, but because] the American Bible Society was handing out the Psalms to thousands of people." Volunteers wore Take the Word Challenge T-shirts with the American Bible Society logo.

NEW YORK

Unforgettable Night

>> Natalie Cole brought a shiver of nostalgia to listeners in Avery Fisher Hall when she sang "A Christmas Song," the old chestnut made famous by her father. Cole and others performed in a concert



NATALIE COLE performed at a Christmas concert.

presented by the American Bible Society and the Christian Cultural Center (CCC) to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and bring attention to Common Ground and The Bowery Mission, organizations that serve the homeless in Manhattan.

Also performing in the "Christmas in New York" event were Dino and Cheryl Kartsonakis and Pauletta Washington, Denzel Washington's wife. The Manhattan Pops Orchestra, conducted by Bob Krogstad, provided accompaniment.

The Rev. A.R. Bernard Jr., the founder of the booming CCC, has recently become a board member of the American Bible Society. ■

Bible Q&A

There seem to be a lot of Marys in the accounts of the Resurrection. Who are they?

—CHRISTINA GALANES, VIA E-MAIL

There were many witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, but women were the first. Mary Magdalene is the only person who appears in all four gospel accounts. She returned to the tomb on the day after the Sabbath to find it empty. In Matthew 28, "the other Mary" accompanied her; in Mark 16 and Luke 24, Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, was with her; and in John 20, only she is mentioned. Scholars agree that "the other Mary" is the mother of James and Joseph.

Mary Magdalene was one of the inner circle of Jesus' followers in the gospels. Contrary to popular belief, there is no evidence in the gospels that she was a prostitute. Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, ministered to Jesus and gave his ministry financial support (Matthew 27.55).

We can read "face to face" as an idiom of intimacy.

I'm reading Exodus 33.11 and Exodus 33.20, and there is a seeming contradiction. Can you spot it?

—BOYD KIEL, VIA E-MAIL

The first of these verses reads, "And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend," and the second, "Thou canst not see my face; for there shall no man see me, and live." To

make sense of this, we can assume that the phrase "face to face" should be understood as an idiom of intimacy. Moses was the greatest of the prophets, and God spoke to him as a friend. Moses is allowed to see all God's goodness and glory (what he is), but not his face (how he looks). It underscores the difference between the Creator and his creatures, even in the case of Moses, who is "faithful in all mine house" (Numbers 12.7, 8).

In some translations, the Lord's Prayer ends with the verse, "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Why is this phrase not in all translations?

—PATRICK BANNERMAN, VIA E-MAIL

You are a close reader of Scripture! The phrase is a doxology. It was not included in the original prayer but was added to a later manuscript long after Matthew's time. The addition of the phrase

acts to round out the prayer liturgically. It is related to the doxology used at temple services, and echoes the language of Psalm 72.19: "And blessed be his glorious name for ever" (*KJV*). Another possible source is 1 Chronicles 29.11. Translators of early English translations were not yet aware of the oldest Greek texts, and some translations omit the phrase. The form of the English prayer in public worship quite appropriately includes the doxology. ■

► Readers are encouraged to submit questions to Jacquelyn Sapiie, library services supervisor at Bible House, at jsapiie@americanbible.org or via U.S. mail.



MEI CHANGLAN, 85, is in the fullness of the spirit as she reads from Psalm 91. She has only recently learned how to read.



A photograph of a church interior, showing wooden beams and a red banner with Chinese characters. The image is vertical and occupies the left side of the page.

50 Million and Counting

Bibles were once burned in China.
Now God's Word is the means to new life.

| BY KUA WEE SENG

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2007, the 50 millionth Bible rolled off the presses at the Amity Printing Company in Nanjing. While the world mourned the tragedies of 2001, we in China were also reminded of God's goodness in providing us with a living Word.

The establishment of the Amity Press was truly one of God's miracles. During the horror of the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and '70s, all churches in China were closed; Bibles were banned, confiscated, burned and destroyed. Who could have imagined, then, that a Bible printing press would be allowed? But in 1987, Amity Printing Press was established with donations from supporters of the Bible Societies. This was a dream come true for China's Christians. At last, the Bibles that previous authorities had tried to eradicate could be printed legally and openly, with the support of the government.

The miracle continues today. Of the 50 million Bibles printed at Amity, 42 million copies have been distributed in mainland China. This means that, at least unofficially, more Bibles have been distributed here than any other single book. What greater testimony is there than seeing the Bible, once banned, become the No. 1 bestseller?

And miracles continue to take place. The gospel message is spreading, affecting the lives of millions of people and sprouting seeds of hope.

A Life Changed

Through contact with the living and eternal Word of God (1 Peter 1.23), people are coming to faith. One inspiring story is told by Ms. Shen Xiaoping, a novelist who loves to read books of all kinds. One day her Christian neighbor gave her a copy of the Bible, saying,



HOPE FLOURISHES
at a church in Anhui
Province, where free
Bibles were distributed.

“This is the best book in the world. Choosing to ignore it would be the greatest loss of your life.” Shen accepted the Bible, unable to imagine that she had read so many things in her life and never come across the “best book in the world.”

formed, and communities are changed. Another powerful example of its impact can be seen within the Lahu Christian community, a testimony to the transforming power of the gospel for both individuals and their entire communities.

She read through the whole Bible in four days, unable to put it down.

But it was years before Shen read the Bible. She remembered it only when she was due to go for an extended stay and medical checkup at the hospital. She took the “best book” with her and began to read. She read through every page of it in four days, unable to put it down.

Not satisfied with her initial reading, Shen decided to read it again, more slowly. This time it took her 11 days. By the time she finished rereading its pages, she had made a decision to believe in the Lord.

The Power to Heal

The Word of God is alive and active (Hebrews 4.12). Lives are being trans-

The ethnic Lahu people live in Yunnan Province, in the southwest part of China. Nearby in the Golden Triangle, some of the largest opium fields on the planet fuel a rampant trade in illicit drugs. Because of their proximity to the fields, many poor Lahu people suffer with addiction. Coming to faith in Christ has helped many of them kick the drug habit and find the strength to clean up their lives.

A local government official told the story of a Lahu man, Zhang Zasuo. Zasuo had a severe problem with drugs and had sold all of his family’s belongings to feed his addiction. When he heard the gospel and became a Christian, he found the strength to get

BY THE NUMBERS: THE BIBLE IN CHINA

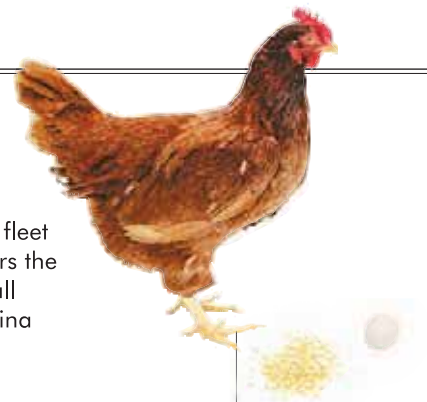


70
Bible
distribution
centers in
the country



60
Countries
to which Amity
exports
Scriptures

44
Vans in a fleet
that delivers the
Bible all
over China



20
Eggs cost the
same as
a subsidized
Amity Bible

185
Years since the
first publication
of the Bible in
Chinese



sober. Every night before going to bed, he would read his Bible. Although he had been taking drugs for five years, he found a way to stop entirely in less than a week, and not look back.

As belief in Jesus spread among the Lahu, more and more of them found the strength to give up their addictions. In this and other ways, the Lahu communities are being transformed by the gospel.

Where Three Are Gathered

The distribution of the Word of God has also led to the establishment and the growth of many churches. The Tangshan Church in Jiangsu Province, for example, has a remarkable history behind its foundation: a powerful engagement with the Bible.

In the early '90s, a woman known as Grandma Tang who lived in the town of Tangshan suffered serious head injuries in a car accident. For weeks she could hardly move. One day her Christian nephew visited her and encouraged her to read the Bible.

As she read it, she experienced the love of God. Her body began to heal. When she was fully recovered, she gathered her two

other elderly friends and the three began meeting for prayer and Bible study. Their small gathering grew in numbers and, before long, they purchased an old house for their weekly meetings. The group continued to grow and eventually they purchased a plot of land on which to build a church. Today as many as 1,000 people attend Sunday worship at the Tangshan Church — a sizable congregation, all born out of one woman's powerful encounter with the Bible.

The wide distribution of the Bible in China has caused it to take root in wonderful ways. It truly shows what happens

when the seed falls on good soil and produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown (Matthew 13.8, 23). Through the distribution of the Bible in China, many are coming to faith in Christ, lives are being transformed, communities are being changed, churches are being established, and the Christian faith is growing.

As with the early church, the Word of God continues to increase in China. The Word of the Lord is indeed growing in influence and power. Praise the Lord for this, his miracle! 📖

Kua Wee Seng (pictured) has been coordinator of the UBS China Partnership since 1999, and before that was director of the Amity Printing Company.

▶ You can touch lives today. Visit www.americanbible.org/give-china or call 866.895.4448.



15

Years spent on current revision of Chinese Union Bible



10

Languages in which Amity prints Scriptures for China

44

Chinese languages with some Scripture



1.25

Number in billions of Chinese who do not have a copy of God's Word

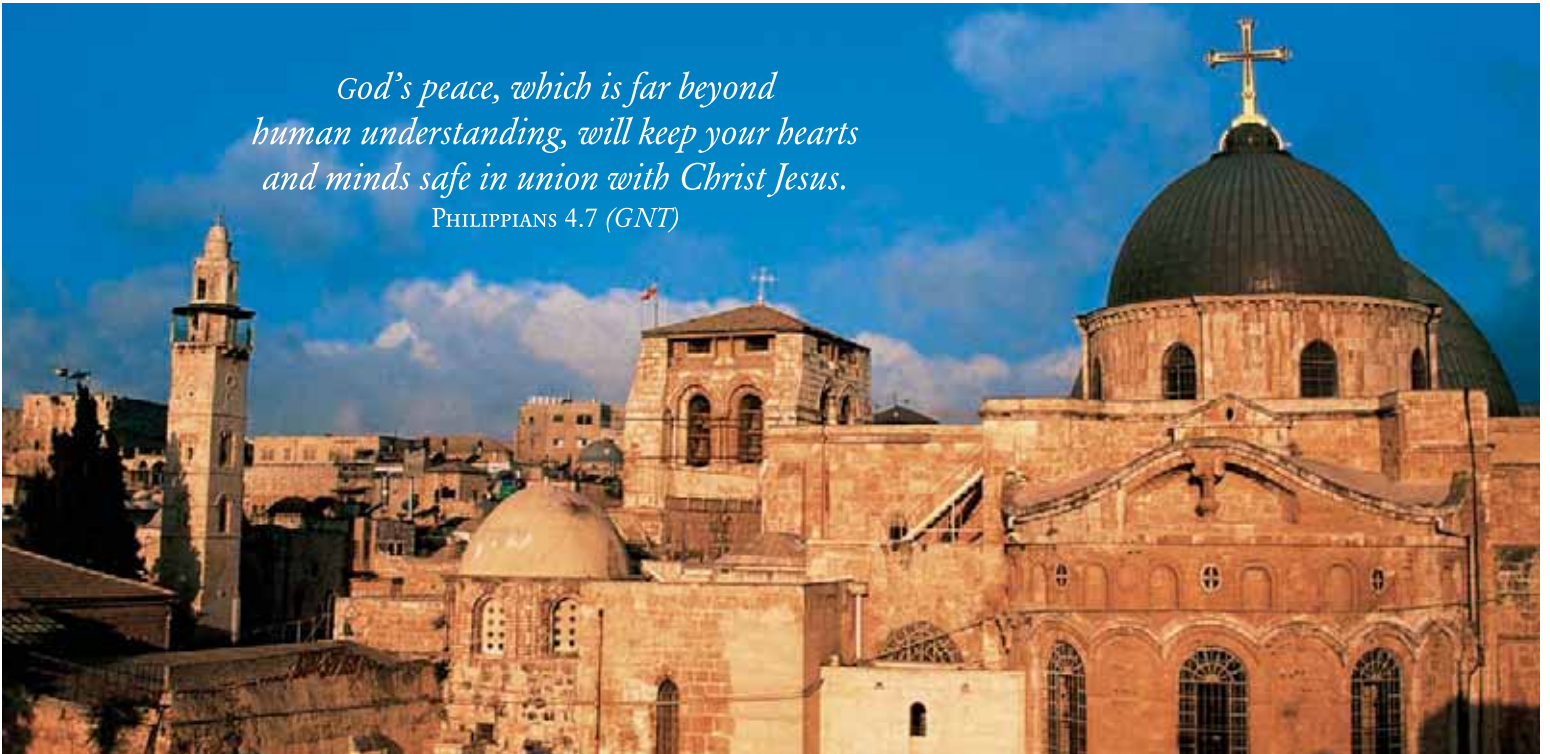
1

Cost in dollars for you to help provide a Bible to someone who is waiting in China





*God's peace, which is far beyond
human understanding, will keep your hearts
and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.*
PHILIPPIANS 4.7 (GNT)



ACROSS THE REGION where Christ proclaimed his message and was resurrected (center), the Word is taking hold and transforming lives. In this traditional world, children from across the Middle East have new opportunities to hear and experience his message of hope.



Unstoppable Love

Stories of hardship and God's
grace from the Bible Societies of
the Middle East

| BY LIZ SMITH

SWIRLING MINOR NOTES from a flute evoked the atmosphere of a souk, or marketplace, from Bible times — the kind of unfamiliar and haunting air Salome might have danced to. Pedro Eustache, who played woodwinds for Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*, was performing at the American Bible Society's fourth annual Bible Summit. With his music resonating through a room draped to evoke a jewel-colored Bedouin tent, participants were transported from the Hilton Hotel in New York to the worlds of the ancient and the modern Middle East.

Sometimes working in that region means asking, "Am I ready to die for the message that is in the Bible?" Key ministry leaders gave their answers to that question. The Global Bible Summit was a rare opportunity for them to share stories from the front lines with American Bible Society supporters.

Riches and Possibilities

Muslim countries operate very differently from the U.S., and that can be a good thing, according to Ramez Atallah, general secretary of

the Bible Society of Egypt (BSE). Just imagine, he asked listeners, a place where the government prohibits pornography, and where children can walk down the street at 1 a.m. and be completely safe. "We have morality laws that are just as strong as the civil laws. This is one of the most important differences in Islamic culture," he says. In a sense, his compatriots, Christian and Muslim, live in a much more god-fearing world.

Christian proselytizing is not allowed in Egypt. Advertising is, however. Newspapers and billboards on highways are all used to promote the Scriptures. Many first heard about *Kingsley's Meadow*, a popular cartoon about a lion created by the American Bible Society, through a billboard (see page 12). The curious are then directed to BSE shops, which sell videos of "Kingo" and many other items. (One BSE booth is at a gas station en route to Alexandria.) Ramez feels that the image of a commercial enterprise gives the BSE legitimacy and currency. Through Bible outlets, the BSE is able to distribute about 3 million items a year, through 150,000 sales transactions.

The seven countries of the Arabian Peninsula face different challenges. According to Hrayr Jebejian, general secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf (BSG), many people come there to work in its more affluent areas. On average, 65% of the total populations are expatriates from more than 50 countries. Many of them are migrant workers. Without rights in a foreign land and generally with little education, these workers are often isolated and lonely.

The BSG compassionately provides opportunities for them to learn the Word of God, build relationships and find hope not only for themselves but also for their families back home. In the booming economy of Dubai, for example, the Bible Resource Center has multimedia materials and Bibles in 40 languages. Hrayr has also been a Bible Society consultant for other countries in the region. “When God is in our heart, every place is home,” he says.

Hope in the Face of Danger

Immersed in one of the most difficult situations in the world, Labib Madanat serves as general secretary of the Bible Society of Palestine (BSP). The manager of its bookshop in Gaza was murdered last October. Although the bookshop had endured other acts of violence, this was a devastating blow. Many Palestinians rallied in protest. At the Summit, Labib said that non-Christian women came to mourn, and Messianic synagogues expressed their shock. The BSP was always a welcome presence in the neighborhood.

Labib asks if there is enough in the Bible to speak to every culture. The answer is yes. “No one is too dirty for the blood of Jesus Christ; we do not require preconditions for our serving,” he says.

Lebanon is the only Arab country where it is legal to change religions. Evangelism is permitted there. Yet within the past 100 years, the Christian population in the Middle East has dwindled from 25% to less than 5%. Christians face persecution even here, despite the relative openness of the country, according to Michael G. Bassous, general secretary of the Bible Society in Lebanon (BSL). Last summer a bomb exploded near the Bible Society Center in Beirut. Yet, in the face of violence, hope grows.

The BSL is one of two Bible Societies (the other is the BSE) that produces Scriptures in Arabic. A current project is helping the Beirut Bookshop and its lending library distribute some 164,000 Scripture items.

The BSL also oversees work in Syria and Iraq. A Bible Society presence has been established in a safe Baghdad neighborhood since 2003. Important ministry through drama is making a deep impression on children there. The Kurdish government has given the BSL permission to open a Bible Center in Northern Iraq. The Bible Society is the only organization with that kind of access.

“The Middle East is the place where God chose to manifest himself to mankind. It is where it all started — and where it will all end,” Michael says. ■

The Middle East
is the place where
God chose to
manifest himself
to mankind.

► The Global Bible Summit convened representatives from Bible Societies in the Middle East. Help us share God’s message around the world at www.americanbible.org/worldgifts.



“KING” OF THE ROAD

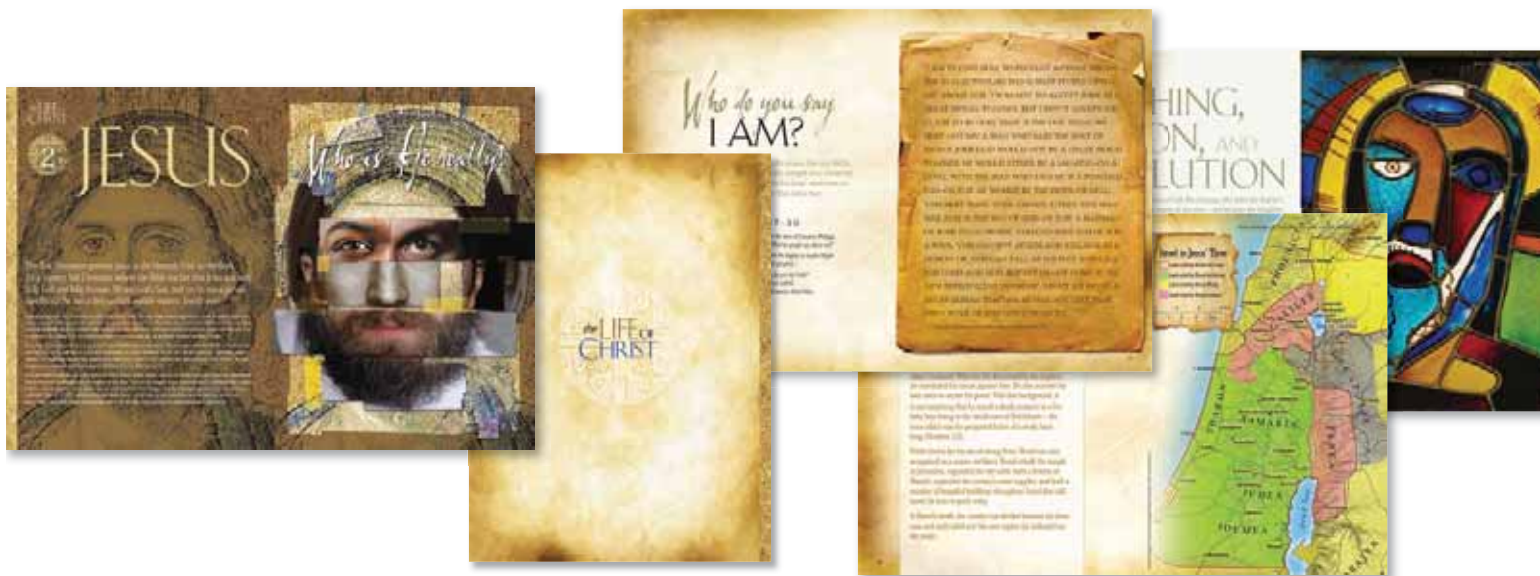


On a busy highway in Cairo, Egypt, billboards advertise the “Kingo” children’s video. *Kingsley’s Meadows* was conceived and produced by the American Bible Society, but the friendly lion cartoon character (on the masks at left) is a household name only in Egypt.

The billboards provide visibility for the Christian minority in Egypt, drawing Christians to learn more

about their faith. Ramez Atallah thinks *Kingsley’s Meadows* is one of the best children’s videos ever produced, as it introduces ethical and moral issues that are common to all people.

In addition to the billboards, the BSE is raising funds for a year of advertising along the highways and in Cairo’s subways, the only subway system in Africa and the Middle East.



Easter=Restart

A new publication answers questions about Jesus' life

| BY JASON ANTHONY

THERE IS A TIMELY NEW TOOL for those who yearn to know Christ and for those who yearn to know him better. *The Life of Christ* is a new book produced in a partnership between Time Inc. Home Entertainment and the American Bible Society. This beautifully illustrated volume helps readers at many levels of biblical scholarship explore the world of Jesus, in words and pictures.

Each chapter is a visual feast that delves into a different facet of Jesus' life and ministry. In the pages that describe how he taught, a large pearl is placed next to the famous parable (Matthew 13.45, 46). A lamb and an abstract design of a bloodied doorpost stands opposite an explanation of the traditions of Passover. Easy-to-read charts and graphs also tell his story; one shows how the promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled in him, and another chronicles his post-Resurrection appearances. One table is devoted to exploring the various Jewish sects of first-century Judea.

"Contemporary culture is very visually oriented," says Barbara Bernstengel of the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship, who worked closely with scholars and authors to help produce the book. "The graphics here are very important. They are designed to engage people who might normally not pick up a Bible. One gets the background of the culture next to messages from the Bible, in an engaging way, so that everything fits together."

The book answers questions that readers might not know they had. What were the medical reasons for death on the cross?

(Hypovolemic shock may have played a role, page 105.) Did Jesus make an appearance in any official Roman documents? (The historian Flavius Josephus wrote about "a wise man . . . called Jesus," page 40.)

Following the long-standing tradition of the American Bible Society, this book does not promote any doctrinal note or comment. However, the book does provide compelling reasons and

Explore the world of Jesus in words and pictures.

arguments for the divinity of Christ, which may be helpful when discussing the Bible with others. It addresses the existence of apocryphal gospels,

such as those mentioned in *The Da Vinci Code*. It also includes thoughtful comments from such biblical thinkers as C.S. Lewis.

But the beautiful pages might themselves be the best window to the Bible at Easter. Ms. Bernstengel made a gift of a similar book, *Inside the Mysteries of the Bible*, also published by the Bible Society and Time Inc., to one of her relatives for Christmas. As soon as she showed her friends, requests for the book came pouring in. "I know that this new book will touch people's lives," she says. ■

► To purchase *The Life of Christ* and other titles, visit www.americanbible.org.

Hope for the World

The effects of global poverty are devastating. But proven and effective programs have been set in motion that allow God's message to fight injustice, disease and violence. Just how many lives can be changed by the Bible? Look at the map below, and see where your contribution can make a difference.

● Site of current outreach

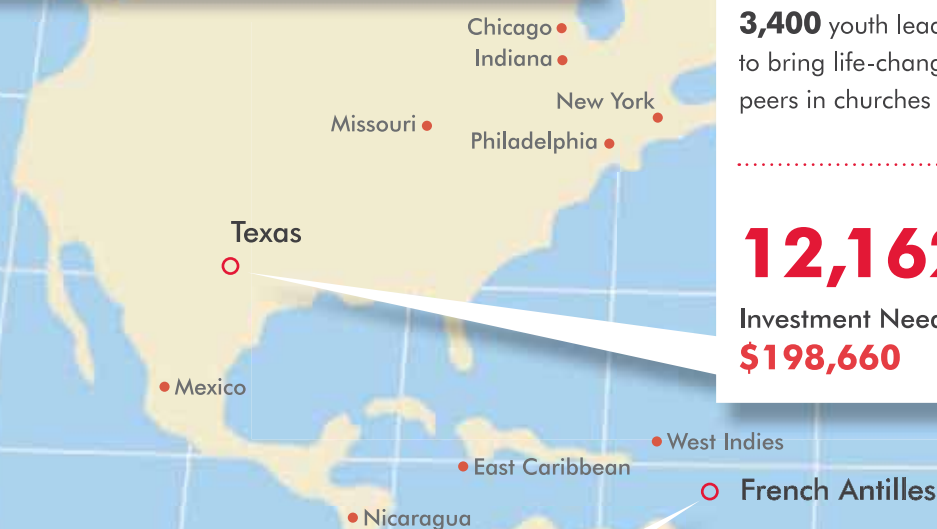


God's Hope for the Young

As teens struggle through the cultural minefield, Youth Wave is helping. Across the state of Texas, **2,500** parents could learn parenting skills, and **2,500** more could enter "Parent University." And **3,400** youth leaders would be trained to bring life-changing values to **3,762** peers in churches and Bible study groups.

12,162 LIVES

Investment Needed:
\$198,660



Healing Broken Families

Poverty means broken homes; the victims are women and children. Simply training **20** leaders for a Bible study group can reach **1,500** others. Advanced study for an additional **900** could create lasting change in this small country; **600** renewed family commitments could result.

3,020 LIVES

Investment Needed:
\$54,325





Critical Care for the Poor

Church leaders have constructed a regional health center, but the larger need is surgical and critical care. A new ward could provide care for the body and the soul, as **2,400** are engaged in Bible reading within the clinic, and **2,400** more are encouraged to follow up outside its walls.

4,800 LIVES

Investment Needed:
\$66,650



• Russia

• Kazakhstan



Light for Literacy

Illiteracy separates thousands from the Word. A proven program from Faith Comes By Hearing® could train **23** new leaders of a national project. An additional **1,920** would lead listening groups for Audio Scriptures, which could bring the Word in local tongues and audio formats to **19,200** more.

21,143 LIVES

Investment Needed:
\$196,288



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PLEASE PRAY

This season, we invite you to focus your prayers on specific needs within Central Africa, the Caribbean and the United States.

USA



Please pray for at-risk teenagers across the United States who wrestle with difficult choices. Pray for the work of Otra Onda/Youth Wave. Pray for their multicultural ministry across Texas. Pray for the events and publications of the Elementz of Life™ ministry, which uses contemporary appeal to introduce urban youth to the Bible. Pray also for these and all of the American Bible Society sponsored ministries that equip both youth and their parents to discover new hope as well as the powerful purposes of God in the Bible.

FRENCH ANTILLES



Please pray for the broken families and victims of domestic violence within the Caribbean islands of the French Antilles, whose plight stems from the ravages of ongoing poverty and alcohol abuse. Pray for growing efforts of the local Christian leaders in their introduction of life alternatives and new hope based in the Word of God. Pray for the restoration of families and communities as they are coached to new understandings of biblical values and God's love through Christ.

UGANDA



Praise God for the successful completion of the new maternity ward within the Azur Christian Health Center and with this, the new range of ministry opportunities developing here in East Central Uganda. Pray for the ongoing needs of addressing crisis and emergency medical care within this region as well as the growing opportunities for life-changing Bible ministry that accompany this care.

MALAWI



Please pray for the ongoing efforts to bring God's Word to the vast number of impoverished and widely illiterate people currently without access to the Scriptures across rural Malawi. Pray for the local church expanding its work to reach these men and women with Audio Scriptures and compelling and understandable presentations of the love of Christ.

► If you have your own prayer requests, please join our community of prayer at www.circleofprayer.org.

"Those who trust in the LORD for help
will find their strength renewed. They will rise on
wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary;
they will walk and not grow weak."

ISAIAH 40.31 (GNT)

[In Memoriam]



The American Bible Society deeply mourns the death of Mrs. Ruth Stafford Peale, a member of the board for more than 50 years and a great Christian leader.

Herbert and Rebecca Beardslee
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. EDWARD C. BEARDSLEE

My sister, Louise Doris Bechlein
GIVEN BY THE TRUST OF HARRY E. BECHLEIN

My father
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. T. ELTON BOST

Robert T. Hall
GIVEN BY MRS. ROBERT T. HALL

My husband, The Reverend Harold S. Hannum
GIVEN BY THE ESTATE OF ANNA W. HANNUM

Russell I. and Viola M. Hanson
GIVEN BY THE HANSON FAMILY TRUST

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard Hiss
GIVEN BY MRS. LOUISE H. REINOEHL

My parents, The Rev. Kenneth P. and
Margaret W. MacDonald
GIVEN BY MRS. HELEN E. BEATTIE

Melvin Kauwila Pahulehua
Rev. Ross Cleeland and Mrs. Sylvia Cleeland
GIVEN BY MR. KEITH P. ROBINSON

Hans Schafft
GIVEN BY MRS. LILLIAN R. SCHAFFT

Maxine Schmidt
GIVEN BY MR. TERRY SCHMIDT

Maj. Paul E. Simpson, Ret. USAF
GIVEN BY MARTHA EVERETT

Howard and Frances Stang
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER MUDRAK

Anna M. Willingham
GIVEN BY DAVE AND CARLA WILLINGHAM

Honor the memory of a loved one by helping to provide Bibles to people who don't yet have them. Memorials of \$500 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in the *American Bible Society Record*. For further details about the memorial program, please write to: Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505.

Making an Impact

| BY DAVID SINGER



The Rev. Simon Barnes has served the American Bible Society for more than 14 years. This has taken various forms. Most recently, he led a partnership with Geneva Global Inc., where he helped demonstrate the effectiveness of the Bible Society's programs in some of the most difficult areas of the world.

Drawing on his research expertise and his ministry experience, the Rev. Barnes joins our staff as executive vice president of development, marketing and research. He shares his vision for the future.

Q: Those who know you talk about your "pastor's heart." Where does that come from?

A: Well, I have been a pastor — an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. From both my business experience and theological qualifications I've learned that the greatest asset of any enterprise is its people. The caring and feeding of people is essential.

Q: Why have you chosen to take on this new leadership role?

A: For two reasons. First, I'm excited about President Paul Irwin's vision to increase the visibility of the Bible Society. I believe that the Bible Society is in a unique position to increase ministry impact across the full spectrum of Christian witness. I want

us to be a catalyst for helping fulfill the mission of the 140 Bible Societies around the world, always looking to see where God's Word can have the most significant impact.

Second, I'm excited by the challenge of engaging the next generation. There

God's Word is life-changing when people listen.

are so many who are desperately seeking answers yet don't even know what questions to ask.

I'm honored to serve an organization that has remained true to its mission for nearly 200 years. But our great potential and mission have

only been partly realized. We need to look beyond our own denominational circles and friendships; we need to pray for opportunities to engage those outside the church.

Q: What changes do you foresee at the American Bible Society?

A: We need to develop ways to take the Bible to the man and woman in the street — to engage them with the Bible. We need to demonstrate to them how the Bible is relevant to every situation. God's Word is life-changing when people listen. Scripture is the anchor of our faith; the authority of the Word is the special lens through which people need to view the world.

Q: What would you like *Record* readers to know about Simon Barnes?

A: That I share their passion as a follower of Jesus Christ. God has opened this door — I know why I'm here and what I'm meant to do. I want to be his obedient servant. My vision is to help the Bible Society to be all it can be in raising up the Bible. ■

"... God's grace rules by means of righteousness, leading us to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." ROMANS 5:21b (GNT)

Labors of Love

| BY DAVID SINGER

This past September, at age 93, Katherine H.K. Hsu, MD, went home to the Lord. Yet she leaves behind a lifelong legacy of giving to others.

Born in Foochow, China, Katherine was the great-granddaughter of Leang Afa, the first Protestant missionary convert in China. Afa became China's first Protestant pastor and also printed its first Chinese Bible, carving each of the Chinese characters himself. That labor of love took 14 years to complete. By 1833, desperate for more Bibles and other Christian literature to sustain his small but growing faith community, Afa wrote to the American Bible Society seeking funds for Bible publication. The Bible Society responded with a grant of \$5,000.

His great-granddaughter carried on Afa's spirit of outreach. Katherine's regard for all who suffer, especially children, inspired her to become a physician. She dreamed of developing a treatment to halt the spread of tuberculosis (TB), a disease that claimed the lives of a brother and a sister.

Graduating with honors from Peking Medical Union College, Katherine headed up pediatrics at the Children's Hospital in Shanghai. When the Japanese invaded in 1941, she fled to join her husband at a medical college in Jiangsi. After Victory in Japan Day in 1945 she moved to Canton to teach pediatrics at Ling Nam University Medical College.

A fellowship in pediatric research brought Katherine to the U.S. in 1948. Five years later, Baylor College of Medicine invited her to build a children's TB clinic and hospital. While



KATHERINE HSU made contributions to pediatric medicine, and was a champion of the Bible cause.

there she developed an effective treatment for preventing TB in children, fulfilling her professional dream.

She wrote regarding her many contributions, "As I look back, I can see clearly

how God has wonderfully engineered circumstances and led me step by step. . . . As the Scripture says, 'We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'"

Katherine's commitment to God's Word and her gratitude for helping the faithful in China get access to God's Word live on through her numerous American Bible Society Gift Annuities and other gifts. It also continues with the foundation that bears her name. Her generosity follows a long family tradition of opening the riches of God's Word to others. ■

▶ Planned giving can ensure a legacy of God's Word. E-mail giftplanner@americanbible.org, or call us at 800.549.3328.

Every \$1 Helps Provide God's Word in China!



The American Bible Society has an opportunity to help provide 250,000 Bibles in China — a massive nation still suffering spiritual famine. Since the end of the Cultural Revolution, we've carefully established a network that allows us to help provide Bibles for only \$1 each.

Due to the dramatic growth of the church in China, the demand has never been greater.

Your generosity will help searching souls who have been waiting for the hope and comfort of God's Word — perhaps for a lifetime. Please help place a Bible into the hands of someone in China whose heart is hungry for the Truth.

Yes! I want to help answer the prayers of spiritually starving people in China who are still waiting for the Good News.

☐ Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

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Address _____

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E-mail address _____

Please return this coupon with your check made payable to the American Bible Society. Contributions to the American Bible Society are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by law. Funds raised in excess of this need will be used to help provide God's Word where the need is also great.



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TEAR HERE

■ QUIET TIME | A guide to daily study



"God has raised this very Jesus from death,
and we are all witnesses to this fact."

ACTS 2:32 (GNT)

APRIL 2008

Let Your Light Shine and Be Filled with Hope

- 1 JOHN 11:1-16
- 2 JOHN 11:17-44
- 3 JOHN 12:20-50
- 4 ROMANS 5:1-21
- 5 ROMANS 6:1-23
- 6 1 PETER 1:1-12
- 7 1 PETER 1:13-25
- 8 1 PETER 2:1-17
- 9 1 PETER 3:8-22
- 10 1 PETER 4:1-19
- 11 1 PETER 5:1-14
- 12 2 PETER 1:1-21
- 13 2 PETER 2:1-22
- 14 2 PETER 3:1-18
- 15 JOHN 6:1-21
- 16 JOHN 6:22-59
- 17 JOHN 6:60-79
- 18 JOHN 7:10-31
- 19 JOHN 7:32-52
- 20 ISAIAH 25:1-12*
- 21 ISAIAH 35:1-10
- 22 ISAIAH 51:1-23
- 23 ISAIAH 52:1-12
- 24 ISAIAH 52:13-53:12
- 25 ISAIAH 54:1-17
- 26 ISAIAH 55:1-13
- 27 ISAIAH 61:1-11
- 28 ISAIAH 62:1-12
- 29 ISAIAH 65:1-25
- 30 ISAIAH 66:1-24

MAY 2008

Let Your Light Shine and Rejoice in the Spirit

- 1 ACTS 1:1-11 [ASCENSION DAY]
- 2 PSALM 85
- 3 ACTS 1:12-26
- 4 PSALM 47
- 5 ROMANS 8:1-17
- 6 ROMANS 8:18-39
- 7 ROMANS 12:1-21
- 8 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11
- 9 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31
- 10 JOEL 2:28-3,8
- 11 ACTS 2:1-13 [PENTECOST]
- 12 ACTS 2:14-36
- 13 ACTS 2:37-47
- 14 ACTS 3:1-26
- 15 ACTS 4:1-22
- 16 ACTS 4:23-37
- 17 ACTS 5:12-42
- 18 ACTS 6:1-15
- 19 ACTS 7:1-22
- 20 ACTS 7:23-53
- 21 ACTS 7:54-8:3
- 22 ACTS 8:4-25
- 23 ACTS 8:26-40
- 24 ACTS 13:1-12
- 25 ACTS 13:13-43
- 26 ACTS 13:44-14:7
- 27 ACTS 14:8-28
- 28 EZEKIEL 36:1-15
- 29 EZEKIEL 36:16-28
- 30 EZEKIEL 37:1-14
- 31 EZEKIEL 37:15-28

JUNE 2008

Let Your Light Shine and Share God's Love

- 1 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13
- 2 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-24
- 3 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-15
- 4 PSALM 36
- 5 PSALM 48**
- 6 PSALM 136
- 7 HOSEA 1:1-2:1
- 8 HOSEA 2:2-23
- 9 HOSEA 3:1-5
- 10 HOSEA 11:1-11
- 11 HOSEA 14:1-9
- 12 JOHN 3:1-21
- 13 JOHN 10:1-21
- 14 JOHN 13:1-20
- 15 JOHN 13:21-38***
- 16 JOHN 14:1-14
- 17 JOHN 14:15-31
- 18 JOHN 15:1-17
- 19 JOHN 15:18-16:4A
- 20 JOHN 16:4B-33
- 21 JOHN 21:1-25
- 22 1 JOHN 1:1-10
- 23 1 JOHN 2:1-17
- 24 1 JOHN 2:18-29
- 25 1 JOHN 3:1-24
- 26 1 JOHN 4:1-21
- 27 1 JOHN 5:1-21
- 28 2 AND 3 JOHN
- 29 LEVITICUS 19:1-18
- 30 MATTHEW 22:23-46

*Orthodox Christians will observe Holy Week from April 20-26, 2008, and will celebrate Pascha (Easter) on April 27, 2008. **Orthodox Christians will observe Ascension June 5, 2008. ***Orthodox Christians will celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 15, 2008.

"Faith makes us sure of what we hope for
and gives us proof of what we cannot see."

HEBREWS 11.1 (CEV)

JULY 2008

Let Your Light Shine and Tell
of God's Kindness and Mercy

- 1 PSALM 23
- 2 PSALM 32
- 3 PSALM 33
- 4 PSALM 34
- 5 PSALM 103
- 6 GENESIS 32.1-32
- 7 GENESIS 33.1-20
- 8 GENESIS 42.1-38
- 9 GENESIS 43.1-34
- 10 GENESIS 44.1-34
- 11 GENESIS 45.1-28
- 12 GENESIS 46.1-27
- 13 GENESIS 46.28-47.12
- 14 GENESIS 47.13-31
- 15 GENESIS 49.29-50.26
- 16 EXODUS 33.1-23
- 17 EXODUS 34.1-35
- 18 LEVITICUS 16.1-34
- 19 NUMBERS 14.1-25
- 20 ISAIAH 40.1-31
- 21 ISAIAH 41.1-20
- 22 ISAIAH 42.1-25
- 23 ISAIAH 43.1-28
- 24 ISAIAH 49.1-26
- 25 LUKE 18.35-19.10
- 26 JOHN 7.53-8.20
- 27 JOHN 9.1-41
- 28 JEREMIAH 30.1-24
- 29 JEREMIAH 31.1-40
- 30 JEREMIAH 10.1-39
- 31 HEBREWS 10.1-39

AUGUST 2008

Let Your Light Shine and
Encourage Others in Faith

- 1 HEBREWS 11.1-40
- 2 MATTHEW 15.21-39
- 3 GALATIANS 1.1-24
- 4 GALATIANS 2.1-21
- 5 GALATIANS 3.1-18
- 6 GALATIANS 3.19-4.20
- 7 GALATIANS 4.21-5.15
- 8 GALATIANS 5.16-6.18
- 9 EPHESIANS 1.1-23
- 10 EPHESIANS 2.1-22
- 11 EPHESIANS 3.1-21
- 12 EPHESIANS 4.1-24
- 13 EPHESIANS 4.25-5.20
- 14 EPHESIANS 5.21-6.24
- 15 PHILIPPIANS 1.1-30
- 16 PHILIPPIANS 2.1-30
- 17 PHILIPPIANS 3.1-21
- 18 PHILIPPIANS 4.1-23
- 19 1 THESSALONIANS 1.1-10
- 20 1 THESSALONIANS 2.1-16
- 21 1 THESSALONIANS 2.17-3.13
- 22 1 THESSALONIANS 4.1-18
- 23 1 THESSALONIANS 5.1-28
- 24 2 THESSALONIANS 1.1-12
- 25 2 THESSALONIANS 2.1-17
- 26 2 THESSALONIANS 3.1-18
- 27 JOSHUA 1.1-18
- 28 JOSHUA 23.1-16
- 29 JOSHUA 24.1-33
- 30 JUDGES 4.1-24
- 31 JUDGES 5.1-31

SEPTEMBER 2008

Let Your Light Shine
in God's Wisdom

- 1 MATTHEW 5.1-20
- 2 MATTHEW 5.21-48
- 3 MATTHEW 6.19-34
- 4 MATTHEW 7.1-29
- 5 MATTHEW 12.38-50
- 6 MATTHEW 13.1-23
- 7 MATTHEW 13.24-58
- 8 MATTHEW 15.1-20
- 9 MATTHEW 20.1-34
- 10 MATTHEW 22.1-33
- 11 MATTHEW 25.1-30
- 12 MATTHEW 25.31-46
- 13 1 CORINTHIANS 1.1-17
- 14 1 CORINTHIANS 1.18-31
- 15 1 CORINTHIANS 2.1-16
- 16 1 CORINTHIANS 3.1-23
- 17 1 CORINTHIANS 4.1-21
- 18 PSALM 1
- 19 PSALM 19
- 20 PSALM 17
- 21 JAMES 1.1-27
- 22 JAMES 2.1-26
- 23 JAMES 3.1-18
- 24 JAMES 4.1-17
- 25 JAMES 5.1-20
- 26 PROVERBS 1.1-33
- 27 PROVERBS 2.1-22
- 28 PROVERBS 3.1-35
- 29 PROVERBS 4.1-27
- 30 ECCLESIASTES 2.1-3.15

TEAR HERE

*You are my hiding place!
You protect me from trouble,
and you put songs in my heart
because you have saved me.*

-PSALM 32.7 (CEV)