

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

# Record

Winter 2009

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Reading with the  
Salvation Army

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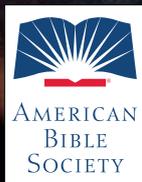
New Churches  
in Nigeria

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Christmas Prayers  
for Your Family

RWANDA & BURUNDI

## Finding Grace



# A Savior Is Born

*"The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him the complete gifts of undeserved grace and truth have come down to us."* JOHN 1.14 (CEV)

With Christmas just around the corner, I'm reminded once again how often God starts with small things to bring about his biggest changes. We remember that God came to dwell among us as an infant, tiny and vulnerable — starting small to accomplish the world's greatest good.



I'm realizing that for many, the first crucial encounters with God's Word start very much like this. They begin with baby steps. People exploring the Bible for the first time need encouragement and support to move forward and discover the wonder of God's bigger story.

That's why I'm so excited by our growing partnership with Scripture Union/USA (page 19) and the new Bible-engagement tool, The Essential 100 (the essential 100 Scripture passages, or E100). E100 provides the simple first steps and a plan for churches and individuals to begin reading Scripture, to keep going and to get the bigger picture of God's love across the full sweep of the Bible.

One 16-year-old named Brian described it well: "It's good to know that someone went through and figured out [the key 100] passages that every Christian should read and think about."

Especially during this Christmas season, please pray with us for these vital first steps. Let's pray that God will bless our ministry efforts (see Gift Catalog, page 10) which invite thousands of people across the United States and around the world to discover the joy of God's Word and the love of God's Son, born for us.

A very blessed Christmas to you and yours.



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#### DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

TIME INC. CONTENT SOLUTIONS

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

WINTER 2009, VOLUME 153, NUMBER 3

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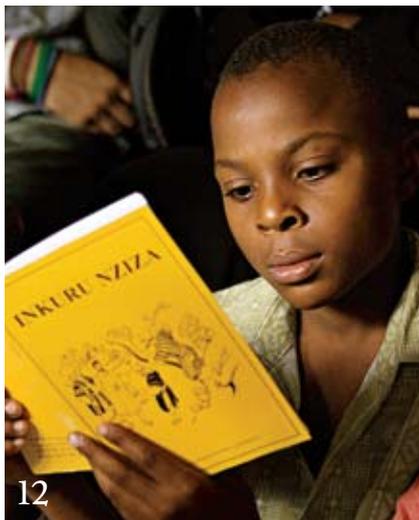
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## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT Rebuilding

I was about to leave a restaurant in New Orleans when my waiter, Rick, complained about the lack of business. "This lunch hour was so lousy my pockets are empty," he said.

I motioned Rick back to the table. "So times are tough?"

"Lunchtime used to be full of tourists and businesspeople, conventioners," he responded. "Now only three tables are taken in this huge place." It was a full three years after Hurricane Katrina.

Rick had a two-story house that had suffered massive water damage. Even with a second job, he couldn't afford to fix it. Times were tough.

Then brightening a bit, he told me that the most effective institutions in the city were the churches. After Katrina, it was church volunteers who were bussed in to help rebuild (pictured above), and who manned the Red Cross efforts.

Summing up his situation, Rick found strength where so many of his city did. "God and my church definitely keep me centered," Rick said.

*David Singer visited New Orleans to report on the area's continued need for God's Word. The American Bible Society had provided churches and ministries in New Orleans with more than 1.5 million Scriptures before the storms. Since Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hannah and Ike, more than 500,000 Scriptures have been given to Gulf Coast residents. ■*

COVER PHOTO: THROWINGLIGHT.COM

# Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

## INTERNATIONAL



**SCRIPTURE FOR THE BLIND** owes much to Louis Braille, who was born 200 years ago.

### FRANCE

## Braille Celebration

Louis Braille was three years old when an accident in his father's harness workshop left him permanently blind. He was sent to a village priest for private tutoring. By the age of 15, he developed a new reading and writing system for the blind, using raised dots to represent letters.

The bicentenary of Louis Braille's birth (1809) will be commemorated around the world, and especially in his birthplace of Coupvray, France. Braille's invention of a reading system for the blind gave millions access to written knowledge.

The American Bible Society has long supported Bible literacy for the blind, through the translation and production of Braille Bibles and through innovations that provide the Word of God in audio formats.

### NIGERIA

## A Happy End

In Tonti, Nigeria, a man is so moved by watching *The JESUS Film* that he expresses his faith in Christ. The moment is life-changing. "He used to talk to me harshly, drink excessively and never cared to stay home," says his wife. "Now he is

changed. Please kindly teach me, too. I want to follow you people."

The couple began to attend a newly planted church in Tonti. The church is an outgrowth of the hard work of End to End, an innovative church-planting project that brings international and local partners together to fulfill Jesus' commission to share the gospel.

This initiative engages the unreached and predominantly oral people of the Taraba region with *The JESUS Film*, the Faith Comes By Hearing® Audio Scriptures, and Bibles in local languages. The goal is to bring those who show an interest into vibrant New Life Groups or churches. There they are taught the story of the Bible, and many join new churches, like the one in Tonti.



**A CHURCH PLANTER** from End to End, left, follows up with a young man in Nigeria.

## NATIONAL

### NEW YORK

## Gettin' Salty

Cheryl "Salt" Wray from Salt-N-Pepa — the most successful female rap group in history — is smiling on the cover of the

fifth annual issue of *Elementz of Life*™.

Salt-N-Pepa released five albums in the 1980s and '90s, received five Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, and several MTV awards.

Despite the fame and fortune, Cheryl still felt empty. She cried out to God, walked away from Salt-N-Pepa and now talks to women about their lives and relationship to Jesus Christ.



Earlier issues of *Elementz* focused on positive life change through Jesus Christ from violence or drugs to healing. Editor-in-chief Tonya Wilder-Butts, who is also the mission manager for at-risk youth, says that this issue explores the idea of making dreams come true. "Now we're addressing a transformative process," she says, "recognizing the gifts God has instilled in each one of us and living up to our full potential, according to his plan."

The magazine is an outreach ministry that consistently reaches people hungry for God's Word. Tom Trageser, a ministry network leader with the American Bible Society, was at the annual WOW (Winning Our World) Jam event in Charlotte, N.C. last August. While he was assisting a donor, he watched a couple in their twenties with three young children approach the *Elementz* tent. The young man said to the young woman, "Honey, do you remember the picture of the cross that I sent to you while I was in prison? Well, I got it out of this magazine's last issue."

To learn more about the current issue or to receive a copy of the magazine, please visit [www.ElementzofLife.com](http://www.ElementzofLife.com).



ON NAVAJO LAND, a daily vacation Bible school reaches out.

**NEW MEXICO**

## On the Reservation

“The needs here are staggering,” says John Dillard. This summer John, his wife Tami and their two teenage sons set out for Pueblo Pintado, N.M. — deep in the heart of Navajo country. For the second year in a row, the family was helping run a weeklong daily vacation Bible school for local kids.

With rising unemployment, substance abuse, gambling and isolation, the community faced challenges that could only be met with a message of hope. Last year the Dillard family had nothing tangible to leave behind after their Scripture-intensive week ended. Tami, who organized this year’s mission, wanted to change that.



200 illustrated children’s Bibles to the students in their ministry.

Word about the daily vacation Bible school spread quickly in the tightly knit Navajo community, and attendance grew daily. By week’s end, it had grown by 50 percent, and the Scripture-centered program attracted 60 children from ages four to 15.

She searched the Internet for Bibles and found the American Bible Society (ABS). After speaking with her, ABS offered to donate

## FLIPS AHOY HAS A WINNER!

Ashley Phillips (pictured) of Wagoner, Okla., has even more to be thankful for. Her entry was selected randomly in the first Flips Ahoy contest hosted on ShareYourStoryNow.org. She and her fellow contestants had submitted audio, video and written accounts of how God’s



Word is at work in people’s lives. Ashley

told how God is healing her from the effects of her father’s damaging words with Song of Songs 4.7. She received a new Flip™ Ultra Video Camcorder. A donation of \$1,000 is being made in her name to the *Light of the Amazon*, a boat ministry of the Bible Society of Brazil, supported by ABS.



**TECHNOLOGY**

## The Bible Booth

A wave-of-the-future ministry tool

The “Word of God: Speak” Bible engagement booth lets visitors encounter Scripture in a lively, multimedia environment. The booth made its debut at this year’s Church of God General Assembly conference in San Antonio. Once visitors entered the Bible booth, they were able to:

- **Watch** video panels that run trailer-length reviews of various Scripture ministry projects
- **See** an iTunes display that highlights Bible translation
- **Write** personal, handwritten expressions or prayers to God on the booth’s wall
- **Record** a video testimony for ShareYourStoryNow.org

The Bible engagement booth is currently located inside the American Bible Society bookstore at 1865 Broadway in New York City.



“This very day in King David's hometown  
a savior was born for you.”  
LUKE 2.11a (CEV)

# Christmas Prayers

The 12 days of Christmas are a time to reflect on God's gift of love — God's own Son, the Savior and Light for the world. You and your loved ones can engage these daily readings to help celebrate a joyous season.

**DAY 1**  
DECEMBER 25  
(JANUARY 7,  
EASTERN ORTHODOX)

LUKE 2.1-20

**DAY 2**

MATTHEW 1.1-17

**DAY 3**

MATTHEW 1.18-25

**DAY 4**

JOHN 1.1-18

**DAY 5**

TITUS 2.11-15

**DAY 6**

HEBREWS 1.1-14

**DAY 7**

PSALM 98

**DAY 8**

LUKE 2.21-40

**DAY 9**

LUKE 2.41-52

**DAY 10**

JOHN 8.12-20

**DAY 11**

ISAIAH 60.1-9

**DAY 12**

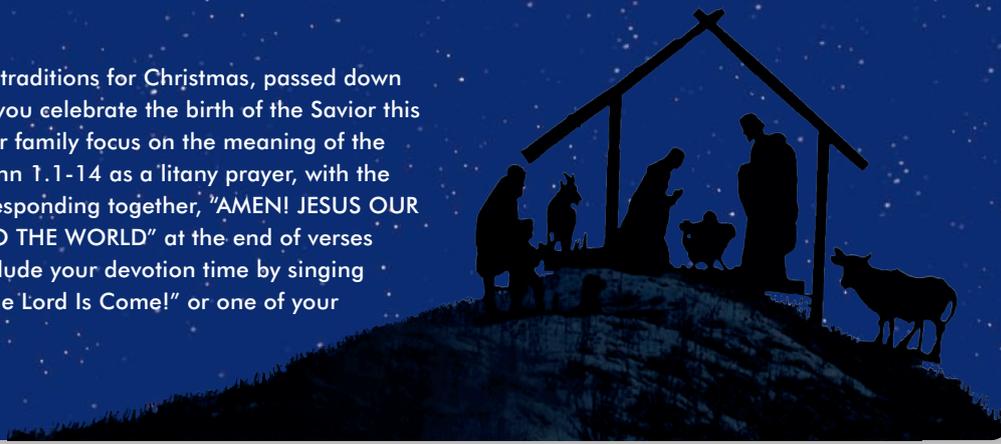
PSALM 72

**EPIPHANY**

MATTHEW 2.1-12 (13-23)

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

You probably have your own traditions for Christmas, passed down through the generations. As you celebrate the birth of the Savior this year, try this idea to help your family focus on the meaning of the day. Ask someone to read John 1.1-14 as a litany prayer, with the rest of the family members responding together, “AMEN! JESUS OUR TRUE LIGHT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD” at the end of verses 2, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 14. Conclude your devotion time by singing together “Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!” or one of your favorite Christmas carols.



STAR ILLUSTRATION: (C) LAWRENCE LAWRY/GETTY IMAGES; NATIVITY: IMAGEBROKER/ALAMY

# Bible Q&A

## Answers to your Scripture questions

**Why did God choose Canaan to be his nation on this earth rather than Iraq — the old Eden, which is really rich in oil?**

—K. MORESI, NEW ZEALAND

When Abraham was called by God (Genesis 12.1-3) to migrate to Canaan, it was a land of flourishing city-states at the crossroads of the ancient world. The religion was developing a trend toward monotheism. The movement into Canaan was a step in the divine plan toward the redemption of man through Christ. The circumstances of the location and a population not adverse to monotheism were a fertile atmosphere for belief in Yahweh — which the clans brought with them. In summary, though we can't speak for God, it seems the divine purpose of the migration from Mesopotamia, modern day Iraq, to Canaan was not only to find a rich environment in which the people could prosper, but for the people and the religion to prosper and grow for the redemption of mankind.

**Other than Jesus, who in the Bible was given a name by God?**

—J. MACMICHAEL JR., VIA E-MAIL

God named a number of people.

- **Jacob's** name was changed to **Israel** (Genesis 35.9-11).
- **Sarai's** name (Abraham's wife) was changed to **Sarah** (Genesis 17.15, 16).
- **Abram's** name was changed to **Abraham** (Genesis 17.4-6).
- God named Zechariah's son **Maher-shalal-hash-baz** (Isaiah 8.1-3).
- God named the **children of Gomer** (Hosea 1.3-9).
- Zechariah's son **John** was named by God (This is **John the Baptist**.) (Luke 1.11-14).

► Puzzled by a Scripture passage? Submit your Bible-related questions to Jacquelyn Sapiie at [jsapiie@AmericanBible.org](mailto:jsapiie@AmericanBible.org) or via U.S. mail.



## Please Pray

We invite you to focus your prayers on countries around the world where people yearn to know more about the Bible.

### BURUNDI

**Pray for** the literacy program conducted through the local Bible Society in Burundi. Sixty-five percent of the nation is illiterate: School dropout rates are high as a result of civil war and poverty. Pray for those who accept the Bible as reading and literacy learning material.

### IRAQ

**Praise God** for the 8,000 people of Iraq who received Scripture in Arabic at a book fair there. Ask God to strengthen the country's persecuted Christians. Praise God as well for the 3,000 Kurdish-speaking people who received Scripture in their language for the first time.

### RWANDA

**Pray for** those in Rwanda who are infected with HIV — an estimated 11 percent of the population. Pray for churches, youth clubs and community organizations who are working to educate Rwandans about HIV prevention with Scripture-based educational booklets. Pray for more trainers to conduct this teaching.

### USA

**Pray for** disadvantaged children in the United States who are expanding their reading skills through a joint partnership with the American Bible Society and The Salvation Army. Pray that they will enjoy the experience of reading God's Word and that their lives will be changed as a result.

► If you have your own prayer requests, please join our community of prayer at [www.circleofprayer.org](http://www.circleofprayer.org).



# Riches for the Least of Them

The American Bible Society joins forces with The Salvation Army

BY DAVID SINGER

THE RESULTS OF A GROWING partnership between the American Bible Society (ABS) and The Salvation Army make for really good news. The Bible Society is supplying the Army's "foot soldiers" with Scripture resources for a full range of programs that bring life change to those wrestling with poverty.

## Mission: Literacy

Failing schools, chaotic home environments and families in which English is not the primary language undermine the literacy skills of impoverished urban youth. Years ago ABS saw an opportunity to use Bible stories as the core of a new literacy

curriculum. Experts worked with the Bank Street College of Education to make *Mission: Literacy* a reality. A three-level series of booklets, each consisting of 30 Bible stories, helped to significantly enhance the reading skills of children and adults.

Dawn Sharp, an educator and consultant for The Salvation Army's New Jersey Division, says, "Mission: Literacy perfectly matches the dual mission of The Salvation Army: to minister to the body by providing social services and to minister to the soul by introducing people to Jesus Christ."

The Bible Society also promotes Bible literacy for kids from poor urban neighborhoods who attend Salvation Army summer

camp. Each child is given a knapsack filled with school supplies — and a *Contemporary English Version* Bible from the Bible Society.

"As a young kid I can remember my nervousness each year, facing the first day of school," says Mr. Patrick Patey, representing the Dallas–Fort Worth Salvation Army. "These kids face the same anxiety, but without having proper supplies."

## Christmas Compassion

Maritza Reyes, a mother of four who also cares for her sister's daughters, was overjoyed to receive a Bible for Christmas. The gift came from the Angel Tree



**ON THE FRONT LINES** of reaching the poor, these soldiers are armed with a smile and God’s Word. The Salvation Army relies on American Bible Society Scripture resources for its literacy programs, summer camps and disaster-relief ministries.

program (not to be confused with the Prison Fellowship program of the same name), which brightens the holidays for struggling families. Churches and welfare agencies identify recipients, and volunteers visit their homes to assess the needs of the young children. A paper angel for each child is then hung in an area shopping mall for donors to “adopt.” In all, 300,000 gifts were donated.

In the Dallas–Fort Worth area, thousands of volunteers distributed Angel Tree gifts to 49,000 poverty-stricken children from 15,000 families. The American Bible Society was pleased to add Spanish and English Bibles to donations of toys, clothes and grocery vouchers. “The gifts will put smiles on my children’s faces,” says Carmen Correas, a mother whose husband is in jail.

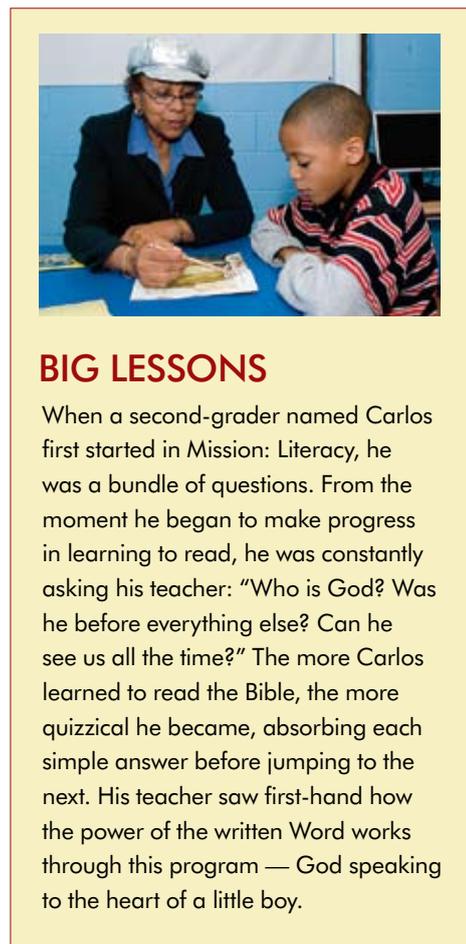
When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, ABS rushed 5,000 copies of the Scripture Portion “God Is Our Shelter and Strength” to Salvation Army soldiers

working along the Gulf Coast. In the years since, the Bible Society has provided an additional 6,000 of these Portions. In anticipation of the need for quick response to future emergencies, additional copies of the Scripture booklets are en route for storage with other emergency supplies.

### Serving the Poor

The Bible Society donates Scriptures for other Salvation Army outreaches as well. The Dallas–Fort Worth Metropolitan Command distributed 17,000 ABS English/Spanish New Testaments this past year to people enrolled in substance abuse programs, homeless shelters and women taking refuge from domestic violence.

Chaplain Bella Carroll of the Carr P. Collins Social Service Center in Dallas says, “We give out 20 Bibles a month to people attending church services and Bible studies, but we could double that number if we had more.” 📖



## BIG LESSONS

When a second-grader named Carlos first started in Mission: Literacy, he was a bundle of questions. From the moment he began to make progress in learning to read, he was constantly asking his teacher: “Who is God? Was he before everything else? Can he see us all the time?” The more Carlos learned to read the Bible, the more quizzical he became, absorbing each simple answer before jumping to the next. His teacher saw first-hand how the power of the written Word works through this program — God speaking to the heart of a little boy.



[ SPECIAL APPEAL ]

**A SEASON OF GIVING** Give the greatest gift of all this Christmas by reaching out to

## Give American Children Food for Bodies and Souls

Thirty-seven million Americans are living in poverty. Many poor children are fearful that they may starve. But through partnerships, we can help provide the essential bread of life and hope found in Bible storybooks — along with nutritious emergency food. Will you help save the lives of needy children?



**Help change lives today with your generous gift.**

**\$22.<sup>50</sup>** helps deliver three Bibles and 75 pounds of groceries

Reference # AQ090176A



Give by mail by using the attached envelope  
Give online at <http://hunger.AmericanBible.org>

## Help Meet the Growing Need for Bibles in China

One of the most fertile fields for distributing the Bible is China. The hunger there is growing, and demand continues to exceed supply. Fortunately, for just \$1 each, you can help provide Bibles to Chinese Christians who have been longing to receive the Good News.



**Help provide Bibles for the growing church in China.**

**\$75** helps provide the paper to print 75 Bibles

Reference # AQ090010A



Give by mail by using the attached envelope  
Give online at <http://china.AmericanBible.org>

## Reach Out with Scripture to Men and Women in Prison

Men and women in prison live lonely lives, struggling with guilt and anger over their misdeeds. Many are desperately searching for answers to a life filled with pain and frustration.



With your donation, you can help them discover the true comfort found in God's Word.

**Help heal needy hearts with God's Word.**

**\$60** helps provide 30 Bibles for prisoners

Reference # AQ090168A



Give by mail by using the attached envelope  
Give online at <http://prisons.AmericanBible.org>

## Braille Bibles for Brazil

A Braille version of the Bible in Portuguese first became available in 2003. With your help the Bible Society of Brazil will distribute a complete Portuguese Bible in Braille to 30 public libraries across the country. Having a copy of the complete Braille



Bible in their language at centralized locations will allow thousands of visually impaired people all over Brazil to read and understand the Word of God.

**Help provide the light of the gospel to the blind.**

**\$50** buys one volume (of 38) of a Brazilian Braille Bible

Reference # AQ090181A



Give by mail by using the attached envelope  
Give online at <http://braille.AmericanBible.org>

You can use your credit card online at [www.AmericanBible.com](http://www.AmericanBible.com), mail the attached envelope or call toll-free 866.895.4448.

those in need of Scripture here and around the world.

## Equip Schools Around the Globe with Audio Scriptures

Many countries are now using Audio Scriptures in schools to help teach values. This is an extremely powerful tool. The Bible Society supports these initiatives and can help equip many schools with an entire Audio Scripture Library for just \$40.



Help reach young lives with Audio Scriptures.

**\$40** helps equip one school with an Audio Bible Library

Reference # AQ090003A

 Give by mail by using the attached envelope  
Give online at <http://audio.AmericanBible.org>

## Keep the Presses Rolling!

From Asia to Africa, the worldwide need for Scripture is overwhelming. There are simply not enough Bibles to reach everyone who is ready to receive one.



You can help — right now — by supplying God's Word where it is needed most. A donation will help provide this bread of life to places where the need is currently most desperate.

Help ensure that no one goes spiritually hungry.

**\$60** helps provide 15 Bibles to those in need of God's Word

Reference # AQ090013A

 Give by mail by using the attached envelope  
Give online at <http://presses.AmericanBible.org>

## The Hearts and Minds of American Urban Youth

*Elementz of Life*<sup>TM</sup> provides evangelical resources with contemporary appeal to introduce urban youth to the Bible. As the truth and love of Jesus Christ are presented, they can learn the Bible's message of hope and find out where to seek help in a crisis. Ministry leaders and directors of programs for at-risk youth are making effective use of these Scripture tools.



Help provide 50 *Elementz* magazines and the curriculum and users guides for 50 youth.

**\$125** provides 50 magazines and a curriculum guide

Reference # AQ090180A

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Give online at <http://elementz.AmericanBible.org>

## Mission: Literacy

Many factors keep children and adults from becoming proficient readers. The American Bible Society created an educational program that uses Bible stories as the core for an English language literacy curriculum. In partnership with The Salvation Army, Mission: Literacy is effective in significantly enhancing the reading ability, comprehension and Bible knowledge of these new readers.



Help provide Bible story reading materials that help people learn to read.

**\$153** funds one kit that teaches five children or adults

Reference # AQ090183A

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RWANDA & BURUNDI

# Seeds of Hope

**Two countries grow through God's healing grace**

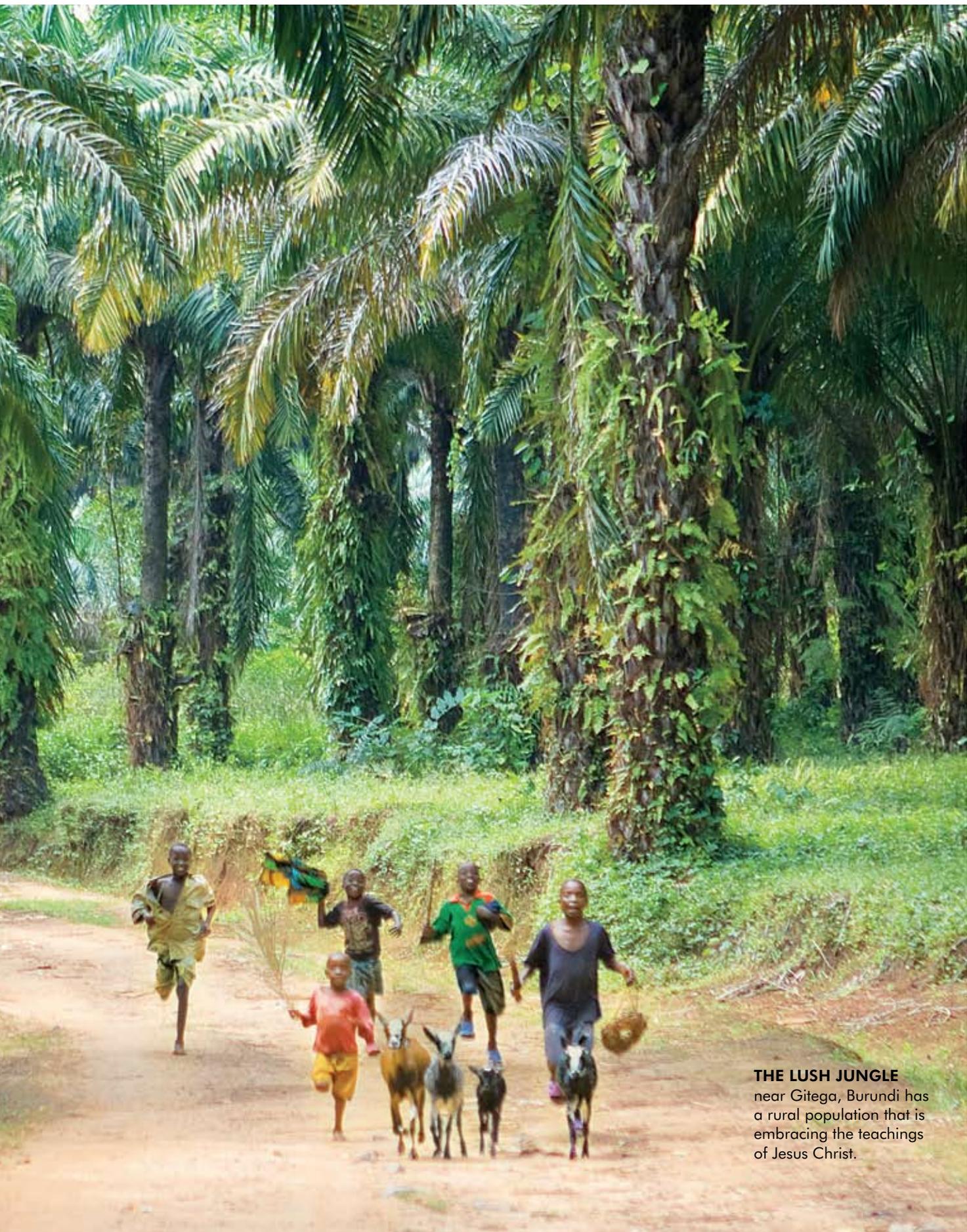
STORY BY LEAH HOOD, PHOTOS BY ANDREW HOOD

WHEN MY HUSBAND AND I RECENTLY traveled to Rwanda and Burundi, we were prepared to enter a war-torn place where people were still recovering from the effects of violence and poverty. Instead, we found lush green fields, breathtaking Lake Tanganyika and, most of all, a gracious, vibrant people eager to serve as ambassadors of their countries and their Christian faith.

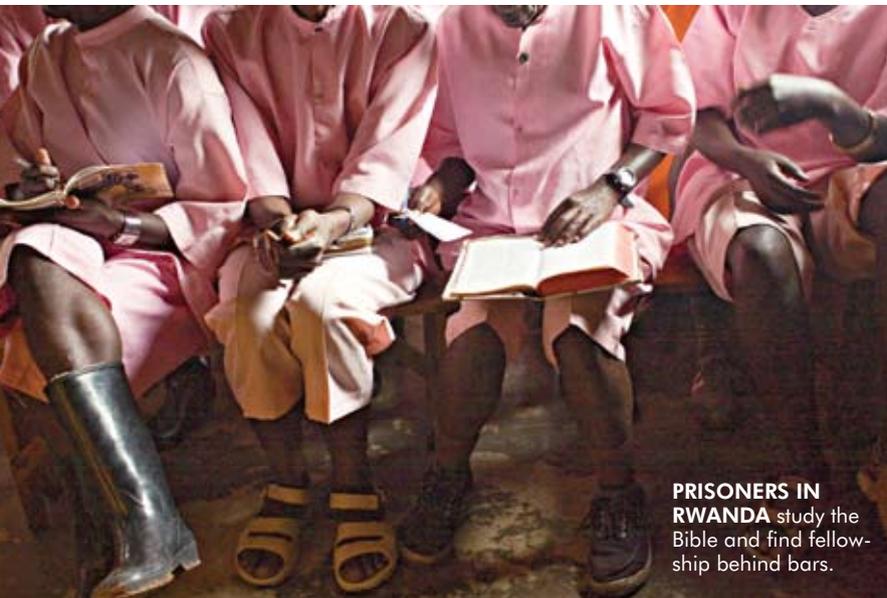
How had this extraordinary transformation taken place? The Bible Societies in both countries spoke of Christ as the Prince of Peace, the physician who was bringing new health to their land. People talked about a spiritual revival.

The unexplainable power of God's grace has given these nations the strength to engage in the difficult and painful work of forgiveness and rebuilding. In a world that so desperately needs to experience the transforming love of Christ, the people of Rwanda and Burundi were our teachers.

(TURN THE PAGE TO READ FOUR POWERFUL STORIES OF HOPE)



**THE LUSH JUNGLE**  
near Gitega, Burundi has  
a rural population that is  
embracing the teachings  
of Jesus Christ.



**PRISONERS IN RWANDA** study the Bible and find fellowship behind bars.

## The Prisoner Pastor

**G**itarama Prison is an unassuming brick structure in the rural hills of Rwanda, home to 7,400 prisoners. More than half of them are serving sentences related to the 1993 Rwandan genocide, a harrowing time when citizens — many of them Christians — committed unspeakable acts. No one in the country was unaffected.

Within the walls of Gitarama, God's forgiveness and healing power are at work. There are many small churches in the prison, each with its own pastors and teachers. Louis (pictured), the leader of one of the Protestant Christian churches,



explains that the Bible is a very important part of his life and healing. "The Bible gives me peace in my heart," he says.

He finds comfort in the story of Abraham. Though his own story is much different from that of Abraham, Louis draws strength from God's promise to bless the Hebrew patriarch. He explains that Abraham waited a long time to see fulfillment of God's promise and that he himself must wait patiently as well. "The Bible helps me to be patient and to wait for God's promise," he says.

Scriptures provided by the Bible Society are essential tools for these church leaders. One says, "It is hard to preach and help others learn about God when you don't have a Bible."

## Reunited in Christ

**I**mmaculé and François (pictured) have been married for 23 years in Rwanda, but many of those years were filled with strife. In 1993, Immaculé became a Christian and had a new vision for her marriage. She tried to be a good wife in the eyes of God and says the Bible, especially Proverbs 31.10-31, gave her strength to keep going every day.

But François wanted nothing to do with Christianity. He explains, "People choose a way in life. I chose a way that was not good." He could not keep a job and would often spend the little money they had on alcohol.

During this time François contracted HIV and through him, so did Immaculé. When she found out, she was devastated. In an act of desperation,



she called her pastor. François agreed to meet with the pastor in the hope that he could solve their domestic problems by making Immaculé change *her* behavior. But the pastor explained that only Jesus could heal the wounds of their marriage. François's heart was softened, and he made a commitment to follow Christ.

God's Spirit quickly began to bear fruit in their marriage and their lives. They attended the Bible Societies' Good Samaritan HIV/AIDS workshop in 2001, which taught them to "look for the people and the problems around you and help them." When Immaculé and François realized that

there were other couples in the same situation, they started a couple's ministry in their church. This ministry led many couples to embrace the love of God in their marriages and live in a way that shares that love with others.

As François says, "All things can become good for those who believe in God."

## Her Miracle

**B**ehind her radiant smile is a deep wisdom uncommon for her years. Shakera (pictured) is 10 years old. She studies hard in school, especially math and science, because she wants to design and fly airplanes when she grows up. She says that she has seen God at work in her country, making the sick well again. She experienced this firsthand.



When Shakera was diagnosed with a potentially fatal stomach disease, her parents desperately looked for a cure, without success. As a last resort they took her to Kenya. She explains that they gave her medicine, and they also prayed for her. When asked if she knows anyone whom God has healed, she smiles and states with great confidence, "Me!"

Shakera attends Sunday School with 200 other children, where they read Scripture booklets provided by the Bible Society. There she learns that God loves little children and does miracles. She especially enjoys the story of David. "God can help you overcome the people who are stronger than you," she says.

With an attitude of thankfulness for what she has seen God do in her own life, Shakera is a living testimony to God's work in Rwanda.

## To Heal the Sick

**O**ne surgeon is making a difference at Gitega Hospital, in a rural area in the heart of Burundi. Gitega is the only medical facility of its kind for many miles.

A year ago Dr. Etiene Bunzirigi began a prayer group. On Wednesday mornings

this group prays for the sick. Etiene says, "We pray that the power of the Holy Spirit would cure the diseases that we can't cure ourselves." This prayer group is open to anyone at the hospital: Patients, family members, nurses and doctors frequently attend. The Gitega prayer group has grown to include a Bible study, led by Etiene, which uses materials provided by the Bible Society.

Etiene explains that many people who come to the hospital recognize their need for healing, both physically and spiritually. He tells his patients, "The power of God is real. God can transform and heal. We teach people how to read the Bible and how to trust it." He says that people in the hospital are the most open to the Scripture's ability to transform their lives. He has seen many people within the walls

## AT SUNDAY SCHOOL, SHE LEARNS THAT GOD LOVES LITTLE CHILDREN AND DOES MIRACLES.

of Gitega Hospital put their faith in Christ.

While there is a small number of Bibles at the hospital, most patients leave without a Bible of their own. "Many people who come here are thirsty to read the Bible," he says. "They beg us to give them one. But we do not have the [financial] means to give them all a Bible. We just don't have enough." His dream is that all the patients who are discharged from the hospital could be given a copy of God's Word, the ultimate source of healing and transformation. 📖

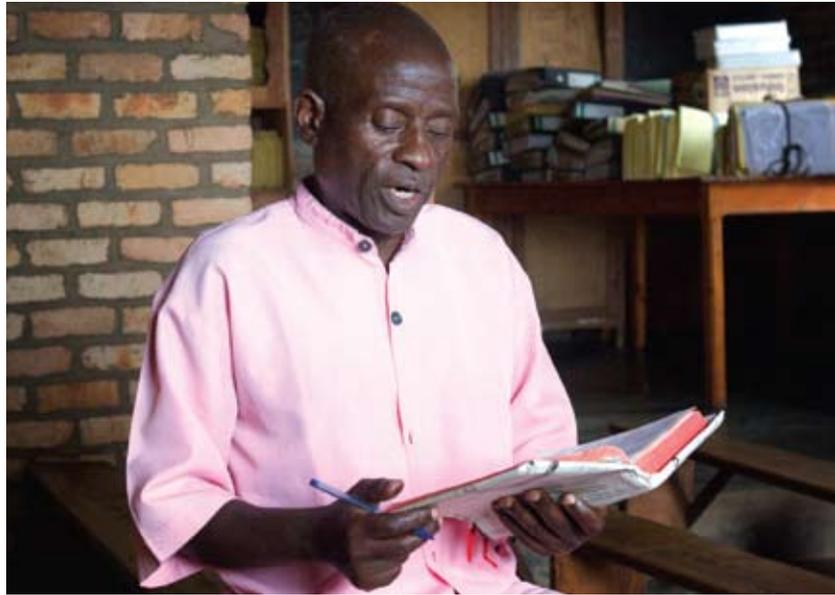
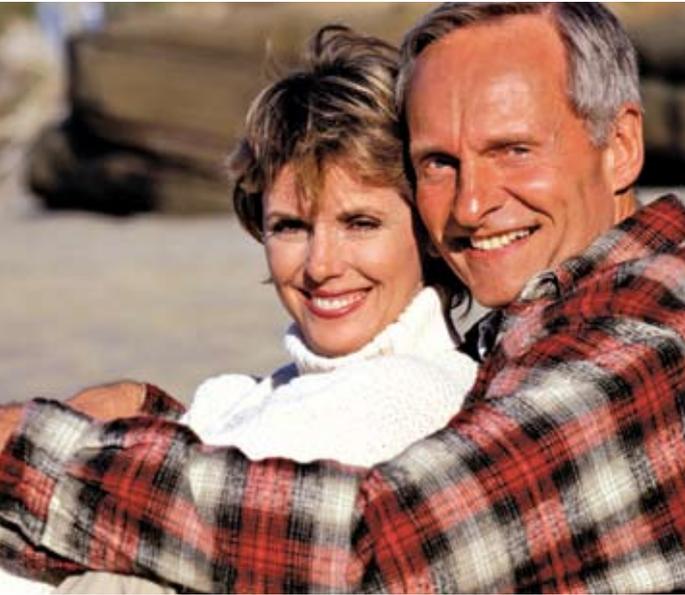


## Your Prayers Can Help

- **Pray** for the ongoing work to bring God's Word to Rwanda and Burundi, and for the advance of the work of the Bible Societies there.
- **Pray** for the progress of the Good Samaritan program, which provides education and compassion for those dealing with HIV/AIDS in Africa.
- **Pray** for those who convert to Christianity, who often face alienation from their families and communities. Pray for their ongoing courage.
- **Pray** for the work of revival and reconciliation ministries in these countries. Some work with recently discharged soldiers, who must lay aside their lifelong training to fight and kill. Pray for their courage and transformation.
- **Pray** for ongoing translation work. Full Bibles have been translated into Kirundi and Kinyarwanda, the chief regional languages, but they need updating. Pray for projects to keep them current.

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## [ In Memoriam ]

“Our friends, we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13, 14 (GNT)

OUR PARENTS, Wilmer and Rose Panno Beidler  
GIVEN BY JOSEPH AND ROSEANNE BEIDLER

Carol L. Berg  
GIVEN BY ARTHUR R. BERG

Sister Mary Charlotte Frenzel  
GIVEN BY GEORGE AND DOLORES FRENZEL  
AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS

OUR FATHER, Lowell Hadley  
GIVEN BY CAROL JEAN DROZ AND DAVID L. DROZ

OUR FATHER, Lowell Hadley  
GIVEN BY CURTIS L. HADLEY AND BONNIE HADLEY

Lorena Hedrick  
GIVEN BY FRANK A. HEDRICK

MY MOTHER, Doris C. Howard  
GIVEN BY Ms. JEAN INGRAM

Glenn and Margery Howard  
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MY WIFE, Frances McMurrin  
GIVEN BY THE ESTATE OF LEE R. McMURRIN

Claire Naber  
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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.

# Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS

“As for you, my friends, you were called to be free.  
But do not let this freedom become an excuse  
for letting your physical desires control you. Instead,  
let love make you serve one another.”

GALATIANS 5.13 (GNT)

## JANUARY 2009 · CALLED TO BE FREE TO FOLLOW JESUS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MARK 1.1-20	2 MARK 1.21-45	3 MARK 2.1-17
4 MARK 2.18-28	5 PSALM 72	6 <b>EPIPHANY</b> MATTHEW 2.1-15	7 MARK 3.1-19	8 MARK 3.20-35	9 MARK 4.1-20	10 MARK 4.21-41
11 MARK 5.1-20	12 MARK 5.21-43	13 MARK 6.1-29	14 MARK 6.30-56	15 MARK 7.1-23	16 MARK 7.24-37	17 MARK 8.1-26
18* MARK 8.27-9.13	19 MARK 9.14-32	20 MARK 9.33-50	21 MARK 10.1-31	22 MARK 10.32-52	23 JOHN 12.20-50	24 JOHN 17.1-26
25 ACTS 9.1-25	26 ACTS 9.26-43	27 ACTS 13.1-12	28 ACTS 13.13-52	29 ACTS 14.1-28	30 ACTS 15.1-21	31 ACTS 15.22-41
*ECUMENICAL SUNDAY THE OCTAVE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY IS JANUARY 18-25, 2009.						

## FEBRUARY 2009 · CALLED TO BE FREE TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

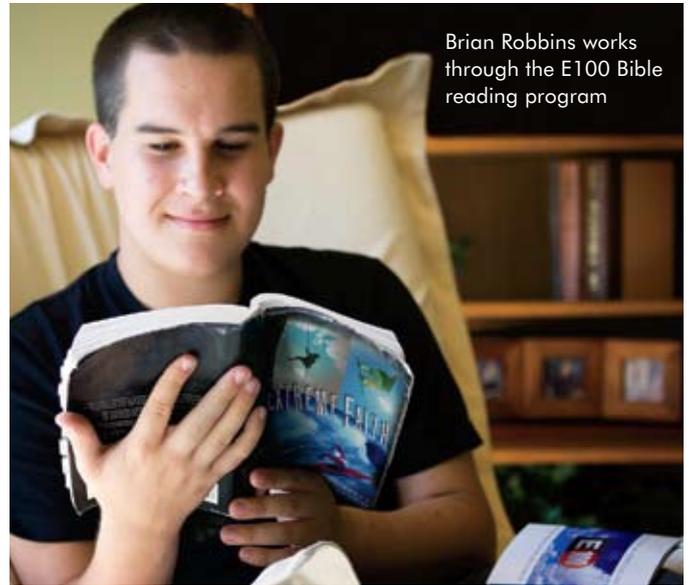
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ACTS 16.1-15	2 ACTS 16.16-40	3 LEVITICUS 19.1-18	4 DEUTERONOMY 6.1-25	5 MARK 12.28-44	6 GALATIANS 1.1-24	7 GALATIANS 2.1-21
8 GALATIANS 3.1-18	9 GALATIANS 3.19-4.7	10 GALATIANS 4.8-5.1	11 GALATIANS 5.2-26	12 GALATIANS 6.1-18	13 1 CORINTHIANS 12.1-26	14 1 CORINTHIANS 12.27-13.13
15 JOHN 3.1-21	16 COLOSSIANS 1.1-23	17 COLOSSIANS 1.24-2.23	18 COLOSSIANS 3.1-17	19 1 JOHN 1.1-10	20 1 JOHN 2.1-17	21 1 JOHN 2.18-3.10
22 1 JOHN 3.11-24	23 1 JOHN 4.7-21	24 1 JOHN 5.1-21	25 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> PSALM 51	26 PSALM 36	27 2 JOHN	28 3 JOHN

## MARCH 2009 · CALLED TO BE FREE TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>1ST SUNDAY IN LENT</b> LUKE 18.1-14	2* MATTHEW 6.1-18	3 ACTS 3.1-10	4 ACTS 3.11-26	5 ACTS 4.1-22	6 <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b> ACTS 4.23-37	7 ACTS 5.1-16
8 <b>2ND SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 2 CHRONICLES 29.1-17	9 2 CHRONICLES 29.18-36	10 2 CHRONICLES 30.1-12	11 2 CHRONICLES 30.13-27	12 2 CHRONICLES 31.1-21	13 EZRA 3.1-13	14 EZRA 8.15-36
15 <b>3RD SUNDAY IN LENT</b> EZRA 9.1-15	16 NEHEMIAH 1.1-11	17 NEHEMIAH 8.1-18	18 NEHEMIAH 9.1-37	19 ESTHER 4.1-17	20 ISAIAH 37.1-20	21 ISAIAH 37.21-38
22 <b>4TH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> JEREMIAH 32.16-44	23 LAMENTATIONS 3.1-42	24 DANIEL 9.1-19	25 JOEL 2.1-27	26 JONAH 2.1-10	27 PSALM 74	28 PSALM 75
29 <b>5TH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> PSALM 76	30 PSALM 79	31 PSALM 80	*ORTHODOX LENT BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009.			

# A Bible Reading Revival

BY LEAH HOOD



Brian Robbins works through the E100 Bible reading program

**W**hat if a program existed in which key readings helped you understand the full narrative import and message of the Bible?

Such a program came to life last summer, when more than 130 churches in the greater Philadelphia area tested the American Bible Society's newly sponsored The Essential 100 (E100). E100 uses 100 key Scripture passages to provide a comprehensive overview of God's involvement in history.

More than 12,400 people, representing diverse denominations and socio-economic backgrounds, committed to reading the Bible with their church. Everyone was enthusiastic and positive.

Barbara Dougherty, a member of Calvary Temple in Philadelphia, explained that her whole church got involved. The children used the program as part of their Christian education curriculum. For her, "the involvement of the entire congregation really helped me stay on track."

One goal of the E100 is to avoid the "Genesis to Revelation," or so-called snow-plow approach to reading the Bible. Developed with funding support from the American Bible Society, the E100 contains 50 Scripture passages each from the Old and New Testaments. The E100 program allows

people to work at their own pace, through a church or small group, by providing the support and motivation that helps people finish.

Whitney Kuniholm, president of Scripture Union/USA and the chief architect of the E100, hopes that this program will help spark a "Bible reading revival" resulting in churches that are more passionate about God and more loving toward their neighbors.

Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli, Pa. He started out strong but hit a dry patch in his spiritual life and stopped reading. "Everyone in my church finished the E100, and I was still in the Old Testament," he says. "But that is the good thing about this program. It doesn't matter if you fall behind, you can still pick it up at anytime and finish it."

## The E100 program allows people to work at their own pace



"What happens when people start to read the Bible? They begin to realize that God is at work in history and in the lives of individual people," he says. "When people begin to connect their story with God's story, that is when the Bible comes alive."

Brian Robbins, 16 years old, participated through his youth group at the

And Brian intends to do just that. Re-energized and excited about engaging in God's Word, he says, "Over the past few months, God has really showed me what he wants to do with my life. I am really looking forward to the future, and really digging into the Bible by completing the E100 program." ■

► For more information and to participate, visit [www.E100Challenge.com](http://www.E100Challenge.com).

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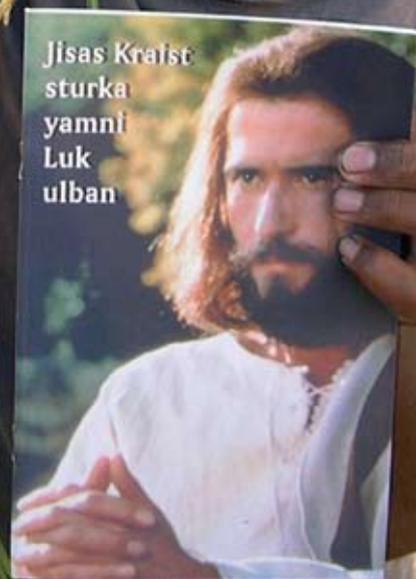
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“The angel said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Savior was born — Christ the Lord!’”

Luke 2.10, 11 (GNT)

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- Check here to receive information about the American Bible Society Gift Annuity mentioned on page 16.