

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

Record

FALL 2014

SEPARATED LIVES

**BIBLE BRINGS HOPE
TO MILITARY FAMILIES**

Page 22

ENTERING A THIRD
CENTURY OF
PROVIDING
GOD'S WORD

Page 10

**Christmas Gift
Catalog** PAGES 13-20



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

Embarking on Our Third Century



Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for your partnership in this Gospel ministry, bringing God's Word to God's people all across the globe.

Especially in this moment, as we are now just months away from beginning a third century of ministry, we are keenly aware

of the opportunity in front of us. It's causing us to dig deeper in prayer, to dream more boldly, to rely more firmly on Christ.

In the pages that follow, you'll read about how these hopes and dreams are beginning to take shape—opening a world where no person lives beyond the reach of God's Word in his or her own language, as well as a powerful resurgence of Scripture engagement here in our own country.

In this issue you'll also read about the ways God's Word is going deeper in the lives of the men and women of our American military family. What an honor it is to serve these everyday heroes who put their lives on the line for us and the freedoms of this nation.

But every day we also remember that none of this ministry would be possible without God's amazing grace and your partnership. For nearly 200 years and now onto a new third century, we are so grateful to serve with you, convinced that the barriers for the Bible must be overcome, that God's Word must go forward, and that the Gospel must flourish.

Thank you for your friendship and prayer as we serve together.

Yours Faithfully,



Dr. Roy Peterson

President & CEO, American Bible Society



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Record

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST
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FEATURES

- 8 The Bible Brings Life and Literacy
- 10 Entering a Third Century of Providing God's Word
- 22 Separated Lives: God's Word Brings Hope to Military Families
- 28 God's Word for Our Nation's Cities

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Inbox
- 4 National Update
- 6 International Update
- 12 Pray Around the World
- 21 Partner Profile
- 27 Quiet Time
- 30 In Memoriam



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The mission of 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. American Bible 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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Iraqw Translation of Bible Impacts Tanzania



The Rev. Dr. Mkunga Mtingele, general secretary of the Bible Society of Tanzania, says Bible translation is essential to the spiritual growth of the Iraqw people.

After 12 years of painstaking translation work, the Iraqw people of Tanzania now have the opportunity to engage with God's Word in their heart language.

Rev. Dr. Mkunga Mtingele, general secretary of the Bible Society of Tanzania, shared how the translation of the full Bible in the Iraqw language has affected his country.

"Reading the Bible in a foreign language makes people feel that God is alien to them. However, once our people started reading the Scriptures in their own heart language, they felt God was closer to them," Mtingele explained. "Christianity is no longer considered to be alien because God is speaking with the people in their own language—the language they understand. And now people in Tanzania are growing spiritually."

By the end of 2013, approximately 10,000 Bibles were distributed mainly in the Manyara Region where the Iraqw people live. The dedicated translators worked part time on the Bible, while also working as full-time pastors with their congregations. Adding to the challenge, the translators were not computer literate and had no computers, leaving the input of data to another team.

"We would like to convey our profound thanks to American Bible Society and your donors for making the new translation a reality. Your donors have been a blessing to the Iraqw people, and we pray God will bless them abundantly," Mtingele added.

You can help provide Bible translations to those who need it most!
Visit ABSRecord.com/translation.

NATIONAL UPDATE

CYCLISTS RAISE AWARENESS FOR TRAUMA SURVIVORS



Ten volunteers cycled for seven days from Daytona Beach to Miami to raise money and awareness for American Bible Society's She's My Sister™ Bible-based trauma healing program. She's My Sister equips churches in the Great Lakes region of Africa with Scripture resources and training in trauma healing, helping victims broken by war and violence.

"We were honored to be back on this bike tour for a fourth year to carry the stories of these courageous individuals and to share with churches in America just how effective this Bible ministry has been in bringing so many churches in Africa together in service," says program coordinator Amanda Olsavsky Hu.

Cyclists worked with seven churches and gave seven presentations explaining how the program uses Scripture to provide hope and restoration to women, children and men with spiritual and emotional wounds.

Ten volunteers cycled across Florida to raise awareness for Bible-based trauma healing in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

STATE OF THE BIBLE 2014

Americans are equally split regarding their feelings toward the Bible. According to the fourth annual State of the Bible survey, 19 percent said they were skeptical of the Bible, while 19 percent said they were engaged with God's Word.

The number of Bible skeptics is up from 10 percent in 2011. This trend is even more pronounced among the Millennial generation, who range in age from 18 to 29 and are more likely than adults to never read the Bible (39 percent compared to 26 percent of adults).

Respondents cited busyness as the primary reason they don't engage with the Bible, revealing the ever-declining confidence that people have in Scripture and its ability to compete with the challenges of their lives.

Although print is still the primary format for Bible engagement (84 percent), unprecedented numbers of people are using digital tools to read the Bible (now 44 percent). "Despite the changing Bible landscape, God's Word is still a significant influence on American culture and society. And we are praying that those who are most engaged will join us in advocating for the Bible's power to change lives across our nation," says Geoffrey Morin, American Bible Society's chief communication officer.



19%
ENGAGED

19%
SKEPTICS

WHILE 50% OF ALL ADULTS BELIEVE THE BIBLE HAS TOO LITTLE INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY, ONLY 30% OF MILLENNIALS* BELIEVE THIS. *Ages 18-29

NOW IS THE TIME INITIATIVE SPURS SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT



In October, American Bible Society, in collaboration with New York City Leadership Center (NYCLC) and Concerts of Prayer Greater New York (COPGNY), will launch “Now is the Time: Luke” at Movement Day in New York City. Movement Day brings together Christian leaders from the nation’s largest cities to address challenges facing urban

areas. In its fourth year, the “Now is the Time” initiative provides church leaders with tools to help grow community Scripture engagement.

The previous “Now is the Time” effort, which focused on the book of Acts, garnered 1,200 church and 110,000 individual participants. American Bible Society cohosted the spiritual disciplines track of “Now is the Time: Acts” with COPGNY and Louis Palau Association for nearly 150 church leaders, representing 80 cities.

Check out resources from Now is the Time: Acts at NowActs.org.

BIBLE-BASED TRAUMA HEALING LAUNCHES AT HOME



An attendee studies the curriculum at a Bible-based trauma healing equipping session in NYC.

American Bible Society launched a new program, Healing the Wounds of Trauma USA, to equip church and community leaders to provide Bible-based care for people experiencing intense fear, horror or hopelessness following a crisis in their lives.

“There’s a huge need for trauma healing right here in the USA—and sometimes we are afraid to talk about it,” says Patricia Walker, senior program manager. “Many churches and faith-based organizations, especially those in our cities, want to help individuals and families struggling with suffering and its aftermath, but they lack resources that are both biblically based and informed by best mental health practices.”

Working together, American Bible Society’s Church Engagement team and the Trauma Healing Institute adapted the trauma healing program to focus on critical issues in the United States, including domestic violence, dislocation, poverty, sex trafficking, suicide, child abduction and gang/urban violence.

To learn more, visit TraumaHealingInstitute.org.

HONORING HISPANIC CHAMPIONS OF THE BIBLE

Multi-Language Ministries—an outreach of American Bible Society—recognized three Hispanic leaders and champions of the Bible at an event hosted at American Bible Society’s headquarters in New York City. Honored for making a difference through their commitment to God’s Word were Mariano Rivera, legendary New York Yankees pitcher; Pablo Perez, a Catholic activist; and The Most Reverend Octavio Cisneros, auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Each leader shared the importance of the Bible in his own life, including Rivera, who said that as a youth in Panama, he was headed down the wrong path—until he was introduced to God’s Word by his cousin and his girlfriend, Clara, who is now his wife.

Bishop Cisneros, an active supporter of many Christian and Latino causes, said, “The Word of God is joy. ... It is a joy that is missionary—the Word that brings us out of ourselves and to others.”



Honorees Mariano Rivera (center), The Most Reverend Octavio Cisneros (front row, fourth from the right) and Pablo Perez (back row, second from the right) stand with staff representatives of American Bible Society.

To read more about these inspiring leaders, visit ABS.us/HispanicLeaders.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

SYRIA: GOD'S WORD AND SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES

To provide aid to the millions of Syrians displaced by civil war, the Bible Societies of neighboring Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan have planned ministries to provide food and other deeply needed supplies—including Bibles and Scripture portions.

The number of refugees is expected to reach nearly 4.1 million by the end of 2014.

The Bible Society in Jordan, with support from American Bible Society, in partnership with 11 churches and 60 trained volunteers, is providing food and supplies to 500 families over a period of six months, reaching approximately 2,500 Syrian refugees.

The Bible Society in Lebanon is planning to supply 6,000 Syrian refugee families with food, hygiene supplies and relevant Scripture Portions for children and adults as they seek to rebuild their lives and find hope in God.

The Bible Society in Turkey is partnering with a Catholic church in the large port city of Mersin to provide 100 families with education scholarships for their children and a year's worth of food, coal and hygiene supplies.



More than 260,000 refugees from Syria have fled to Lebanon. Most are traumatized and desperate. Here are Syrian refugees in Lebanon receiving relief packages and Scriptures from the Bible Society of Lebanon.

BAHRAIN: RETREAT CONNECTS YOUTH WITH SCRIPTURE



Two youth stand with Bibles designed specifically for their age group.

The children of migrant workers in the Gulf develop a subculture that is different from their home background. With their parents at work, young people hang out in the malls and spend hours on their computers and smart phones. There is a great need to reach out to these young people with the message of the Gospel through a compelling project.

Recently, the Bible Society in the Gulf (BSG) supported the Youth for Christ organization on a two-day retreat for 300 youth from various churches from Bahrain and Kuwait. The retreat was called Desert Challenge, and the theme was Morphosis: The Change from Within. The BSG distributed CEV Youth Bibles at this event.

A participating youth leader noted, “I really like that all of the students in my youth group have the same Bible now. We used to have several different translations, which sometimes got pretty confusing. The language is simple to understand, which is great since some of the youth have different levels of English.”



Bible-based trauma healing is helping thousands of people in Uganda know God's love.

UGANDA: THOUSANDS PARTICIPATE IN BIBLE-BASED TRAUMA HEALING

Uganda continues to face daunting challenges resulting from insurgency in northern Uganda that forced one-third of the population from their homes to camps established for the displaced. Moreover, Uganda hosts an estimated 183,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda.

To aid in healing the emotional and spiritual wounds, the Bible Society of Uganda, in partnership with churches in four locations, offered a Bible-based trauma healing program, which included a Bible jamboree in the settlements. The project provided trauma healing and training that reached more than 10,000 people. A total of 230 people, including pastors, lay leaders, elders, community leaders and trauma survivors, each share the Bible-based message of hope and forgiveness with church members. In addition, 108 trained facilitators returned to their communities to provide Bible-based trauma healing in partnership with their churches and communities.

MOZAMBIQUE: TRANSLATION UPDATE MAKES BIBLE MORE ACCESSIBLE

Because Mozambique is bordered by four countries, its people speak many different languages. An estimated, 700,000 people in Mozambique speak Xironga. However, the most current translation of the Xironga Bible was published in 1923, leaving the Ronga people to use texts written in another language to read, study or preach from the Bible. A translation project began in the 1970s, but civil war disrupted its progress.

The Bible Society of Mozambique (BSM), with support from American Bible Society, has continued its work translating the Xironga Bible. As a result, the Ronga community has a Bible. So far, BSM published 5,000 New Testaments with Psalms.



A woman holds a child at a refugee camp in Macia, Mozambique.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: HOPE AND HEALING TO CHILDREN WITH CLUBFOOT



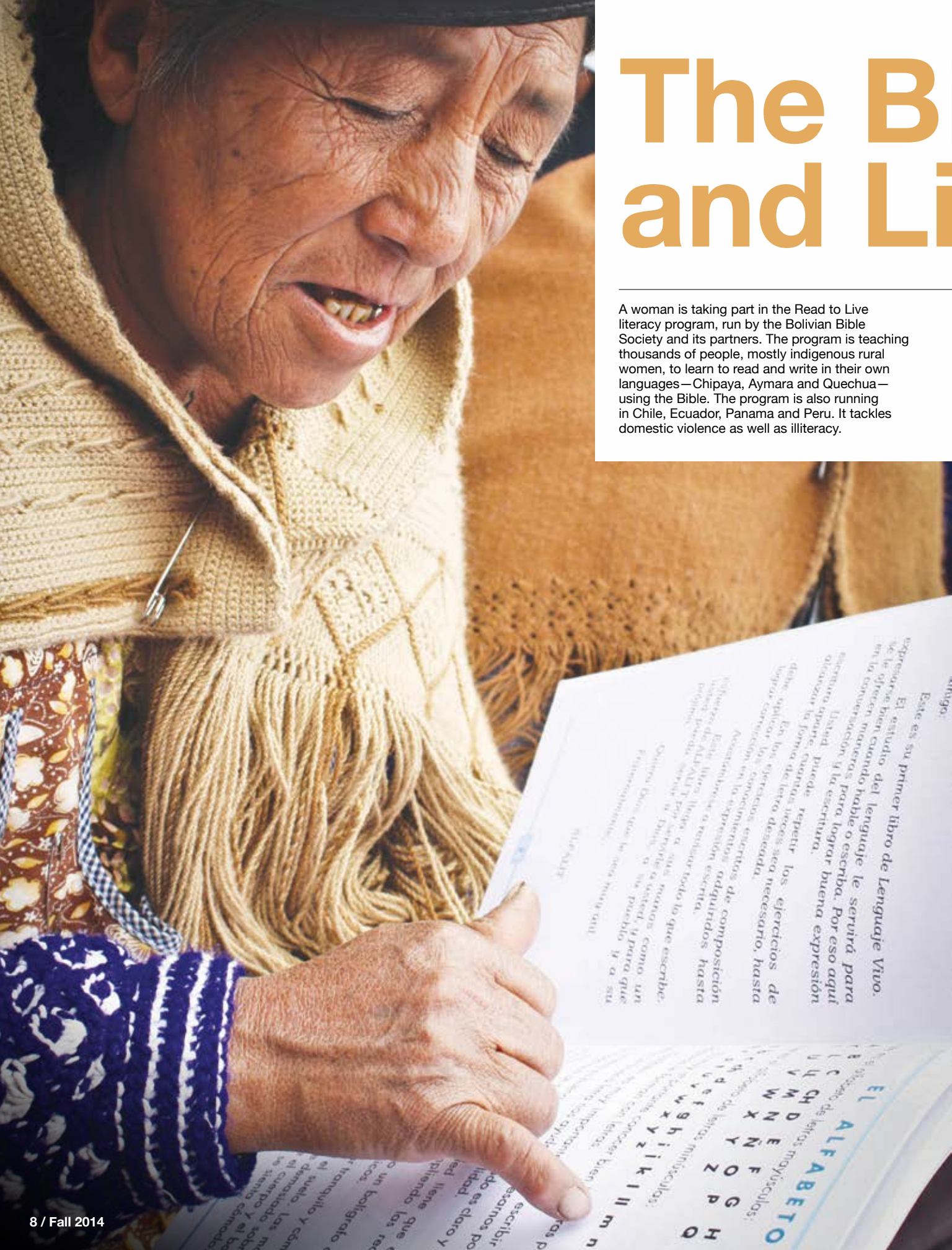
Children in Capotillo—one of the most dangerous parts of Santo Domingo—are taking part in the Dominican Bible Society's Grow and Learn program. The Bible Society plans to reach 15,000 children over three years, providing them with colorful, interactive Scripture books. Sunday school teachers also will be trained on how to use them.

Clubfoot is one of the most common birth defects among children, affecting more than 200,000 worldwide. In 2013, the CURE Dominican Republic Hospital reported 370 children born in that country with clubfoot who will require treatment to correct their limbs. The Dominican Republic Bible Society, with support from American Bible Society, has partnered with CURE International and 40 churches to meet the physical and spiritual needs of 100 children who were identified as having the greatest need. The project also sought to reach approximately 45,880 people with God's Word, particularly those whose children were affected by physical disabilities.

Providing physical healing and spiritual hope, while tangibly demonstrating God's love, will dramatically change the path of these children's lives.

The B and Li

A woman is taking part in the Read to Live literacy program, run by the Bolivian Bible Society and its partners. The program is teaching thousands of people, mostly indigenous rural women, to learn to read and write in their own languages—Chipaya, Aymara and Quechua—using the Bible. The program is also running in Chile, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. It tackles domestic violence as well as illiteracy.



Bible Brings Life Literacy

The Read to Live program empowers victims of domestic violence in South America

By Maria Wolf

Like many women in Latin America, Amparo was a victim of domestic violence. Poor and uneducated, she lived in a rural area of Ecuador. Amparo suffered her beatings in silence, but with each act of violence, her self-esteem and dignity plummeted.

One day, a friend approached her about Read to Live, a program that helps abused, illiterate women learn to read using the Bible. At first, Amparo hesitated, but through her friend's encouragement, she began to attend sessions at another woman's home.

Thanks to the Bible Society of Ecuador—along with the Bible Societies in Bolivia, Chile, Panama and Peru—Amparo is gaining confidence and self-esteem. She also is deepening her relationship with God.

Read to Live, supported in part by American Bible Society, is showing Amparo—and thousands of women just like her—that they are beloved children of God.

Four years ago, Read to Live was just a nascent idea; American Bible Society convened with general secretaries from these Latin American Bible Societies at an international meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. While there, the general secretaries shared their concern about domestic violence and illiteracy in their native countries.

In the male-dominated cultures of Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, domestic violence is ubiquitous. Seven out of 10 women will experience abuse in their lifetimes, research shows. Illiteracy rates, too, are high among women, particularly those who live in rural areas.

The link between illiteracy and domestic violence is clear. Research shows that illiterate women are more likely to suffer abuse because they have low self-esteem. Furthermore, they don't have access to information that could help them.

Read to Live, which was launched in 2012 as a cluster project of the five Latin American Bible Societies, addresses this two-fold problem. Participants are taught basic literacy and then move onto the series of 10 Read to Live booklets, which contain Bible verses and reflections about

gender equality, mutual respect, children's rights and forgiveness. The booklets are used for both literacy classes and domestic violence workshops.

Last year, Shamalia Snipe, American Bible Society's international ministries manager, visited the Bible Society of Ecuador (BSE) to witness Read to Live firsthand. Targeting the Mestizo and Quichua people, BSE created literacy materials, as well as those for domestic violence awareness and prevention.

"The materials have helped me a lot, especially with my husband," says Bodero, testifying to the strength of the program. "He was very violent. He didn't want me to leave the house and everything bothered him. [Because of the meetings], he has changed a lot. We talk very well together now. Before we fought a lot, but now we don't. Now he is more patient and kind."

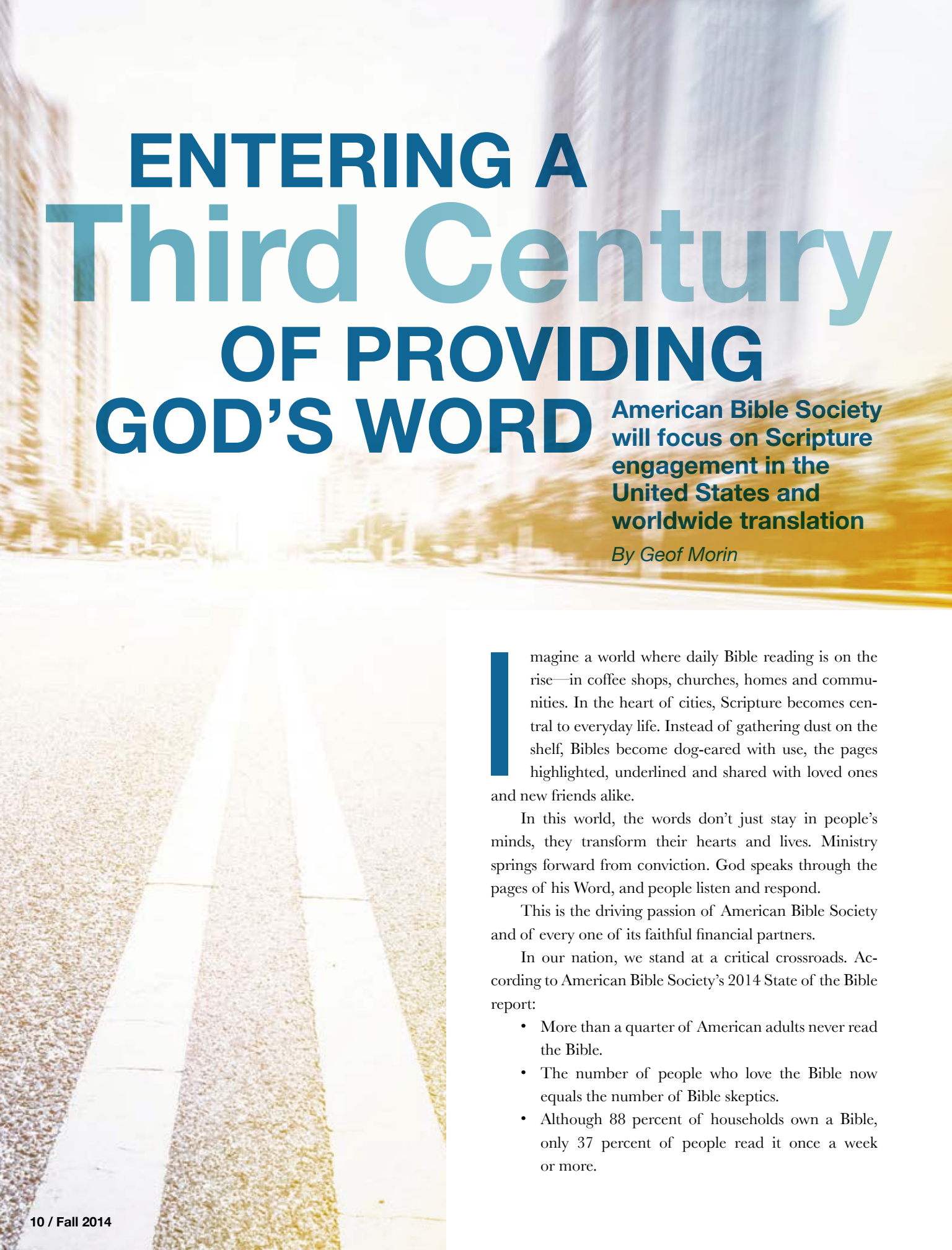
Enrique Miranda also praises the program. "I have learned that I should treat my children well and, above all, my wife," says Miranda, who has since decreased his drinking after attending the meetings. "I used to think that since I was the boss of the home, I could do whatever I wanted to do with my family, but that is not the case and should not be."

Testimonies like these hearten Snipe, who is pleased with the progress of "Read to Live." But she understands that entire cultures and centuries of ingrained behavior will not change overnight. It will take time, patience and commitment on the part of the Bible Societies in the cluster, as well as the men and women who participate in Read to Live.

But change is happening, and for women like Amparo, it can't occur a moment too soon.

Maria Wolf is a frequent contributor to Record and a blogger at American Bible Society's news site: News.AmericanBible.org

You can share the hope and healing of God's Word around the world! Visit ABSRecord.com/literacy.



ENTERING A Third Century OF PROVIDING GOD'S WORD

**American Bible Society
will focus on Scripture
engagement in the
United States and
worldwide translation**

By Geof Morin

Imagine a world where daily Bible reading is on the rise—in coffee shops, churches, homes and communities. In the heart of cities, Scripture becomes central to everyday life. Instead of gathering dust on the shelf, Bibles become dog-eared with use, the pages highlighted, underlined and shared with loved ones and new friends alike.

In this world, the words don't just stay in people's minds, they transform their hearts and lives. Ministry springs forward from conviction. God speaks through the pages of his Word, and people listen and respond.

This is the driving passion of American Bible Society and of every one of its faithful financial partners.

In our nation, we stand at a critical crossroads. According to American Bible Society's 2014 State of the Bible report:

- More than a quarter of American adults never read the Bible.
- The number of people who love the Bible now equals the number of Bible skeptics.
- Although 88 percent of households own a Bible, only 37 percent of people read it once a week or more.

“Can you imagine a ‘Bible-less Christianity?’” asks American Bible Society President and CEO Dr. Roy Peterson. “Of course not! But when you look at the deep declines of Scripture engagement here in our nation, you start to consider this as an actual possibility.”

The consequences of this disconnect from God’s Word can be felt across the country. But the problem is especially urgent in our rapidly growing urban centers, where people often feel broken and hopeless.

“There is an almost meteoric rise of Bible skeptics in our nation—numbers that have effectively doubled in just the last four years. So, for the first time in our research, the percentage of Bible skeptics now exactly equals the percentage of America’s engaged Bible champions (19%),” Dr. Peterson notes.

That’s why, as American Bible Society enters its third century of ministry, God is preparing us, along with our passionate and dedicated partners, to respond to this most urgent need of our times. In 2016, American Bible Society will celebrate 200 years of providing the hope of God’s Word around the world. But we know there is still a lot of work to do.

Together with our partners, we are embarking on a prayerful plan to significantly increase Bible engagement, focusing our efforts on joining where God is already at work, bringing new hope from Scripture to America’s urban hubs and hard-to-reach places all around the world.

“How do we start to turn this rising tide of skepticism, distraction and dislocation from God’s Word?” asks Dr. Peterson. “To begin with, we need to learn to think like a cross-cultural missionary, longing to learn and discover and then ‘translate’ the Gospel into their unique context to allow it to come alive in fresh hearts.”

In the United States, we are partnering with churches and Christian city movements to champion the Gospel cause, so that the central message “God so loved the world” can begin to shape the cultural fabric of our nation and the people within it.

We are aiming to increase meaningful Scripture engagement from 46 million in the United States to 100 million people, introducing a fresh discovery of God’s Word alongside our ministry partners and customized Scripture resources.

“For so many, the cry of their heart is: ‘show me how God’s Word can make a difference. Show me how the broken pieces of my heart and life can get made whole.’ We’re committed to inviting the power of God’s Word to bring together churches and ministries and families—entering

deeply into lives and communities. It’s not shying away from the hurts and brokenness to be found there, but entering in exactly as Christ did, living and loving among our neighbors,” Dr. Peterson explains.

In this way, we will help people encounter Jesus in a personal way with a foundation in Scripture as, together, we build a solid foundation for true change.

God’s Word knows no boundaries, nor does the global mission to which we are called. We hear the cries from our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who long to engage God’s Word in their heart language. To answer that call, we are working with our global partners to make it possible to engage God’s Word in 100 percent of the world’s languages by 2026.

This work will help people groups like the Nsenga speakers in Zambia, who have to worship and read Scripture in their second or third language, because there is no Bible written in their heart language. Nsenga speakers who only know their heart language have no access to God’s Word at all. Recently, the Nsenga Gospel of Mark was dedicated and launched, and for the first time 500 people heard Scripture at church in their mother tongue.

With God’s help, American Bible Society and our faithful partners will work to see Scripture reach all who long for God’s Word in their heart language, including the speakers of approximately 1,860 languages without access to even one verse.

As you can see, our mission focuses on Bible engagement in its truest sense: connecting with God in a meaningful way and experiencing the life change that happens through his precious Word. We do so with enormous gratitude to God for His grace in granting us the ability to persevere in the eternal work of Bible provision.

We are also indebted to our prayer and financial partners who, over the years, have enthusiastically prayed and participated in the Bible mission that God has called them to support. We are bound together in a movement under God’s guidance that has transformed lives for nearly 200 years and will continue to bring thousands closer to Christ through Scripture in the decades to come.

“No matter what the age or the language,” says Dr. Peterson, “we all ultimately need the same thing: God’s Word speaking into the heart of our lives, opening up the big and eternal promises of the Gospel.”

Geof Morin is executive vice president and chief communications officer at American Bible Society.

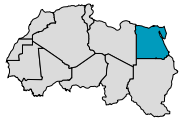
PRAY AROUND THE WORLD

Bible Societies around the world are helping to spread God's message of hope and love with those who need it most. Here are prayer requests from a select group of Bible Societies that ask you to lift them up in prayer.



ANGOLA

Praise the Lord for the opportunity to distribute Scriptures in a country ravaged by years of war and destruction. Please pray for the spread of the work developed by the Bible Society across the country, so that it can meet the growing demand for Scriptures. Pray also for holistic ministries that fight poverty and the AIDS epidemic. Pray, too, for literacy programs and initiatives that help war victims recover from trauma.



EGYPT

Please pray that the Bible Society of Egypt will be an effective participant in the country's reconstruction. Ask God to make it possible to finish rebuilding the Bible Society bookstores that have been completely torched and destroyed, as well as to produce the right kind of biblical literature to be distributed in this difficult moment for the country. Praise God that one bookstore has already been renovated.



REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Please pray for an equitable solution for the problems of our country, especially for the thousands of families that are internally displaced and homeless. Pray also for the effective distribution and use of the new Georgian Bible.



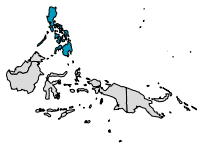
ISRAEL

Thank God for the ongoing provision of resources that allows us to print and distribute the Bible in different formats to various segments of the population. Please pray for the completion of the Hebrew Old Testament in audio and for the distribution of the Book of Psalms in audio to the elderly, the sick, the visually impaired and soldiers.



ARABIAN GULF STATES

Praise God for the successful distribution of 140,000 Bibles and New Testaments in 60 languages to migrant workers, 10,000 children's Bibles and 5,000 CDs. Please pray for the storytelling workshops that will train 5,000 people. And pray that we may get funding to translate and distribute the Hope Booklet in more than 10 languages.



PHILIPPINES

Please pray for the success of the "May They Be One Bible" campaign that aims to distribute 5 million Bibles to poor Filipino families. Pray also that the Lord will open more doors and bring more partners to share the task of bringing God's Word to Filipinos



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

BIBLES FOR THE WORLD CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOG

This Christmas give a
gift that will help change
someone's eternity!

God has given us the greatest gift of all — Jesus Christ.
And this Christmas, you can share God's gift with men,
women and children in the U.S. and around the world.

This **Christmas** provide God's Word ...
where it's needed most!

Share the true meaning of Christmas this season
by providing God's Word to those around the
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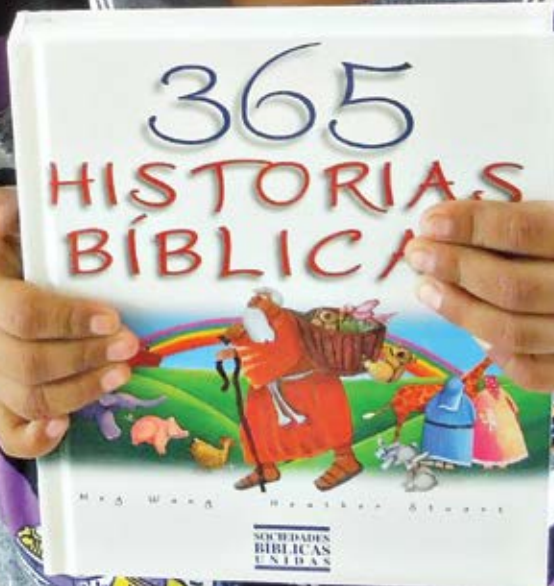
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BIBLES FOR OUR ARMED FORCES



Can our
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this Christmas?

This Christmas share **God's Word**
with our troops in harms way!

Share God's Word with our Troops in battle for just \$5. Separated from their families this Christmas and putting their lives at-risk, they'll be desperate for eternal hope.

\$50 to share the Bible with 10 American Troops

\$500 to share the Bible with 100 American Troops

\$300 to share the Bible with 60 American Troops

\$5,000 to share the Bible with a battalion of American Troops



A U.S. ARMY OFFICER WHO SURVIVED A ROCKET ATTACK IN
AFGHANISTAN RECEIVED A FREE BIBLE DUE TO THE GENEROSITY
OF AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY PARTNERS.

WHEN ASKED WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS TO HER,
SHE BEGAN SOBBING AND SAID, "IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.
IT MEANS SO MUCH THAT PEOPLE CARE."

BIBLES FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

Give **Christmas hope** to our brave Veterans and Wounded Warriors!

Provide a Bible and other Scripture-based resources that will give Christmas hope to our brave Veterans for just \$5. They fought for you. And this Christmas, it's time to fight for them.

\$50 to share the hope of God's Word with 10 Veterans and Wounded Warriors

\$125 to share the hope of God's Word with 25 Veterans and Wounded Warriors

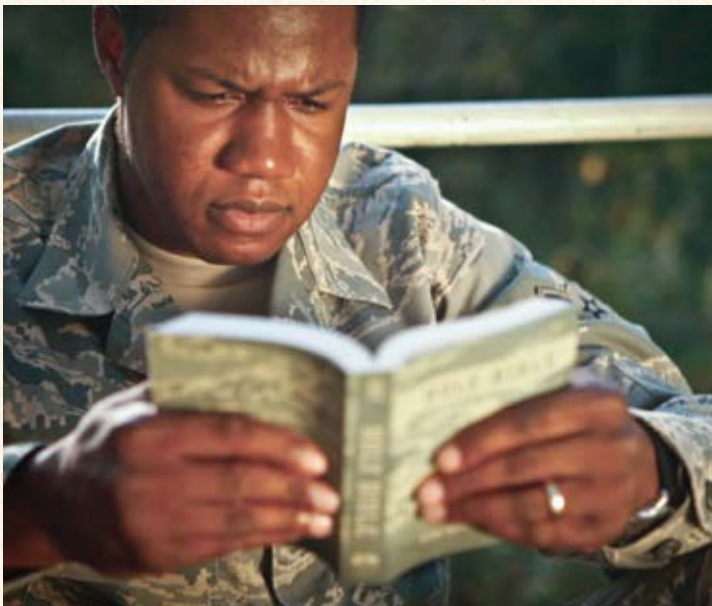
\$250 to share the hope of God's Word with 50 Veterans and Wounded Warriors

*"You are my defender and protector.
You are my God; in you I trust."*

Psalms 91.2 (GNT)



Share God's Word with our **American Heroes**!



Be a hero for our American heroes by sharing God's Word with our Troops. Each Bible costs just \$5.

\$50 to share God's Word with 10 American heroes

\$75 to share God's Word with 15 American heroes

\$300 to share God's Word with 60 American heroes

BIBLES FOR CHILDREN

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\$30 to feed 4 hungry American children — body and soul

\$45 to feed 6 hungry American children — body and soul

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\$1,600 to feed more than 200 hungry American children — body and soul



***“Children are a gift from the LORD;
they are a real blessing.”*** Psalm 127.3 (GNT)

Share **Christmas joy** with orphans and at-risk children around the world!

Give Christmas joy to a desperate, lonely and orphaned child by providing a Children's Bible for just \$5.

\$50 to give a special Children's Bible to 10 orphans and at-risk children

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BIBLES FOR CHILDREN

Give hope for the future to children at-risk in America!

Through our *Mission: Bible Literacy* initiative, at-risk children learn to read from God's Word. It costs just \$5 to give a needy child hope for the future.

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- \$50** to provide Bibles, Bible-based literacy resources and hope to 10 at-risk children
- \$250** to provide Bibles, Bible-based literacy resources and hope to 50 at-risk children



Providing God's Word to children . . . where it's needed most!



Share the true meaning of Christmas this season by providing the gift of God's Word to those around the world who thirst for the Savior's love — just \$5 per Bible.

- \$25** to provide a children's Bible to 5 desperate children
- \$100** to provide a children's Bible to 20 desperate children
- \$250** to provide a children's Bible to 50 desperate children
- \$1,000** to provide a children's Bible to 200 desperate children



PHONE toll-free 866-453-5651



MAIL the order form in the attached envelope inside

BIBLES FOR CHINA . . . AFRICA . . . TH



You can help
share the Christmas
story in China . . .
and around
the world!

This Christmas provide God's Word in China — for just the cost of paper!

Provide the paper to help print 300,000 copies of God's Word in China — the largest mission field on the planet — for just \$1 per Bible.

\$35 to provide the paper to print 35 Bibles in China

\$150 to provide the paper to print 150 Bibles in China

\$70 to provide the paper to print 70 Bibles in China

\$700 to provide a roll of paper to print 700 Bibles — enough to fill an entire church in China



Help end the Bible famine in China.

For just \$5 per Bible, you can help put God's Word into the hands of Chinese Christians!

\$50 put God's Word into the hands of 10 Chinese Christians

\$75 put God's Word into the hands of 15 Chinese Christians

\$250 put God's Word into the hands of 50 Chinese Christians

"Though my life is simple, I am lucky. I have the Good News of heaven. Many around me do not have this hope."
— A believer in China

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Speed Bible translation efforts in Africa!

Help share the Christmas message in Africa and around the world by speeding Bible translation efforts. Your gift will help reach people who are still waiting for the hope of Christmas in the language of their hearts.

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- \$75** to speed Bible translation efforts like the Kikongo Bible in Africa
- \$250** to speed Bible translation efforts like the Nkumbi Bible in Africa

Share Christmas peace in the Middle East!

Share Christmas peace in the Middle East by providing Bibles to men, women and children longing for the truth of the Scriptures for just \$5.

- \$50** to provide 10 Bibles to the Middle East
- \$75** to provide 15 Bibles to the Middle East
- \$100** to provide 20 Bibles to the Middle East



This Christmas provide Digital Scriptures . . . UNDER THE RADAR!

In some areas of the world, owning a Bible could be life-threatening. But this Christmas, you can help put God's Word into the hands of persecuted believers living in difficult areas of our world by supporting our Digital Scriptures initiative.

- \$50** to provide God's Word under the radar
- \$75** to provide God's Word under the radar
- \$150** to provide God's Word under the radar



PHONE toll-free 866-453-5651



MAIL the order form in the attached envelope inside

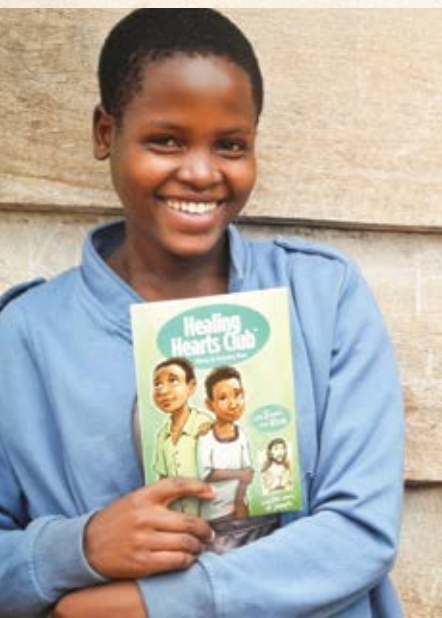
BIBLES FOR RESTORING HEARTS

Restore hope to women and children in Africa!

This Christmas, you can help give the gift of healing and hope to children, women and girls who have suffered unimaginable emotional and spiritual brokenness from the brutality of war, conflict and gender violence. They desperately need to experience God's love, compassion and forgiveness.

- \$70** to provide Bibles and trauma healing to 7 hurting children and women
- \$150** to provide Bibles and trauma healing to 15 hurting children and women
- \$200** to provide Bibles and trauma healing to 20 hurting children and women

Give the gift that has the power to heal broken hearts — God's Word



Heal a hurting child's heart!

Heal a heart by sending a hurting, traumatized child in need to a very special place — Healing Hearts Camp — for just \$22 per day!

- \$22** to provide a child a Bible and 1 day at Healing Hearts Camp
- \$66** to provide a child a Bible and 3 days at Healing Hearts Camp
- \$110** to provide a child a Bible and a full week at Healing Hearts Camp
- \$1,100** to provide 10 children a Bible and a full week at Healing Hearts Camp

Please know that if the Lord blesses us with funds beyond the need of any specific project, we will prayerfully use them for other Scripture ministry.

You may be eligible for a free gift based upon the total amount of your donation. Please be sure to check the applicable box to receive your gift. If you would like the full amount of your donation to go toward sharing God's Word, then you may decline the free gift by checking the appropriate box. All of our gifts fall within the IRS tax guidelines. However, if you request more than one gift, the total of those gifts may exceed the limitations of the tax law and therefore the tax-deductible amount of your donation may be adjusted accordingly. This will be indicated on your receipt.

Heart of New York

Proud New Yorker and friend of American Bible Society supports Bible literacy

Rocco Papandrea is passionate about supporting the work of American Bible Society because he knows firsthand that giving back can change a life.

When his father died of a stroke, Rocco was only 13 and his sister was 10. It was through the kindness of others—and his own hard work and faith in God—that set him on a course of helping others.

“A month after my father passed, we received a check from the VA for \$25,000 from his life insurance proceeds,” Rocco notes. A short time later, his uncle took Rocco and his mother to Merrill Lynch, so they could open an account to protect the financial security of the family. “We wouldn’t have known what to do.”

When the Brooklyn apartment building they lived in was sold by the owners, the church helped the family find another apartment nearby and hired both Rocco and his mother. While attending school, he was the Sexton and an altar boy at the church, and also worked at a Carvel ice cream store.

“My family struggled to make sure I would grow up the way my father wanted. Parochial school was important to my parents,” Rocco says.

Although he received a full scholarship to Boston College, he explains, “I knew I couldn’t relocate to Boston and leave my mother and sister behind.” He had also received a half academic scholarship to New York University’s Stern School of Business. Fortunately, after reviewing the statements that Merrill Lynch had been sending over the past four years, he learned there was enough money for him and his sister to attend college.

Rocco was so impressed with the firm that had been handling his family’s investments that he hoped to work there upon attaining his finance degree. The patience and guidance of the financial advisor who years ago took the time to help his family were instrumental in making Rocco follow that career path.

Working at Merrill Lynch for the last 20 years, he is now a senior vice president of wealth management and wealth management advisor, located at Rockefeller Center.

“I love that I make it possible for people to attain com-



Rocco Papandrea uses his employer’s matching grant program to leverage his support of American Bible Society.

“Faith and education had a huge impact on my life. My wife and I now have the chance to help people who may not otherwise have those opportunities.”

– Rocco Papandrea

fortable retirement lifestyles, and enable their children and grandchildren to go to college,” Rocco explains.

He was introduced to American Bible Society by his friend and former coworker Mario Paredes, who now serves American Bible Society as presidential liaison Catholic Ministries, Strategic Ministries. In particular, Rocco became interested in the work of the Multi-Language Ministries unit, led by Executive Director Rev. Emilio A. Reyes, especially its literacy outreach, a cause important to Rocco and his mother. She was born in Puerto Rico and his father in Italy. He is now a valued member of the Latino Advisory Council at American Bible Society.

For several years, Rocco has taken advantage of the employee matching grant program offered by his employer. It’s another way he can support children and adults in the areas of faith and literacy.

“Faith and education had a huge impact on my life. My wife and I now have the chance to help people who may not otherwise have those opportunities,” he notes.

■ You can support the work of American Bible Society around the world too! Visit: Gift.AmericanBible.org.

SEPARATED LIVES

GOD'S WORD
BRINGS HOPE AND
HELP TO MILITARY
FAMILIES

By Lisa Goetz



Vanessa,* the wife of an Army soldier, is an unrecognized hero. She doesn't wear a uniform or medals. She isn't greeted with words of thanks while out in the community. Like so many military spouses, she maintains order on the home front through her strong belief in the values her husband defends. She bears sacrifices and unimaginable stress, often alone and anonymously.

It's for thousands of patriotic citizens like Vanessa that American Bible Society—in partnership with Support for Military Spouses—participated in Operation Shoebox in March at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Crowds gathered to receive their personal “shoebox,” a care package that included New Testaments, as well as items to pamper and encourage women while their spouses remain on active duty.

At the event, Brigadier General James Scanlon acknowledged the work of people who serve our country by waiting for their spouses to return. They often are the unsung heroes, the behind-the-scenes people who keep the family together.

“When members of the military are in the community in our uniforms, we get handshakes and receive thanks every day,” said General Scanlon. “But we also need to look our military spouses in the eye and thank them for their service.”

Applause erupted when General Scanlon praised a key item in the shoebox.

“One of the most important things in the box—the New Testament—is the key to joy and help through struggles.”

Vanessa knows this firsthand.

“There is no light without the Bible,” says the mother of a one-year-old son. “As a military family, there is so much to deal with on a daily basis. We would have no hope without the Bible. My husband has been on six deployments—Iraq,



Often when military members are deployed, spouses are left to raise families by themselves.

Afghanistan and who knows where because he serves with a Special Forces unit, and his location is often a secret.”

She needs the hope of God’s Word to remain calm in light of such uncertainty.

Mary,* a grandmother of three, speaks about the toll military life takes on families. She moved from South Africa to help her daughter raise her three grandchildren, ages 2 through 10, while her son-in-law is away.

“Faith is the main source of support,” says Mary. “We must pray for these marriages because so many of them don’t survive in the military environment. But if God is



“ My faith has increased with my husband being in the military. But sometimes during his deployment, I’d get mad at God. Then God would answer and send people I wasn’t expecting to help me or to say encouraging things.”

– Allison*

center in the household, marriages will survive.”

Allison* says her faith in God supported her through the challenging life of a military spouse. Her husband has been deployed twice from Alaska to Afghanistan and now works long hours at Fort Bragg.

“It’s a hard journey,” says the mother of four children, ages 7 months to 12 years. “My faith has increased with my husband being in the military. But sometimes during his deployment, I’d get mad at God. Then God would answer and send people I wasn’t expecting to help me or to say encouraging things.”

Pam,* a veteran Army wife, agrees that her faith was essential in managing the challenges of distance, separation and uncertainty.

“My faith sustained me through many rough, rough times in [my husband’s] 30-year Army career. He was gone, in Vietnam, for 12 of those years. ... One time, I had this incredible inkling to pray and pray hard while he was deployed to Vietnam. I remember the exact day and the exact time.

“When he got back,” Pam continues, “I [learned that] he was over mountain terrain, and his helicopter had dipped down to drop supplies to troops. The helicopter navigator panicked and [my husband] had to fly the helicopter. ... God helped him to

quickly get in and get out.”

Art Pace, a retired U.S. Army chaplain, understands the many difficulties military families endure.

“The challenges facing military families are manifold,” says Pace, executive director of American Bible Society’s Armed Services Ministry. “They are located away from their extended family and need to seek support from a new community. They face being uprooted on a routine basis, sometimes unexpectedly.

“If the spouse wants a career,” continues Pace, “it is a challenge because potential employers perceive that

BY THE NUMBERS

★ WHO'S MARRIED?

55% **Active duty personnel**
who are married

49.8% **Reserve personnel**
who are married

★ HOW OLD ARE THEY?

52% **Active duty spouses**
who are 30 or younger

71% **Active duty spouses**
who are under 36

★ HOW OLD ARE THEIR KIDS?

1.17
Million **Dependent children**
of **active duty** military
up to age 23

40+% **Are under age 5**

32% **Are 6 to 11 years old**

25% **Are 12 to 18 years old**

SOURCES:

National Military Family Association

Quadrennial Quality of Life Review, January 2009

they will not be able to stay with the company long term. Changing schools is a regular concern. And, of course, there is the loneliness when the spouse is deployed.”

Given the circumstances military wives face, American Bible Society is planning eight, 30-day devotionals focusing

on their unique challenges. The devotional is being created in partnership with Brenda Pace, a well-known author and speaker, who encourages and mentors women to develop their full potential for serving Christ, with a particular focus on military spouses.

To further meet the spiritual needs of women, American Bible Society offers the Women's E100 via the website: www.E100women.com. Women can register to participate in the Essential 100 Challenge, which explores 50 Old Testament and 50 New Testament passages. They can engage in Scripture individually, side by side with a loved one or in small groups.

Like spouses, children in military families need support. Through its partnership with Military Community Youth Ministries, American Bible Society provides an interactive web experience (www.RezLife.com) for military teens. By combining God's Word with language and stories

“When members of the military are in the community in our uniforms, we get handshakes and receive thanks every day. But we also need to look our military spouses in the eye and thank them for their service.”

– Brigadier General James Scanlon

specifically from within the military culture, the website explores a variety of issues: anger, friendship, losing a parent, isolation, purpose, identity, belonging and family.

For nearly 200 years, American Bible Society has been providing Bibles to military service men and women. But we've learned that the whole family needs support.

Thirty-day devotionals, Women's E100 and RezLife.com bring hope to the whole family.

The common denominator in all these programs is God's Word. There's no surer foundation than that.

** Names of military spouses have been changed.*

Lisa Goetz is a contributor to Record magazine.

You can help share God's Word with troops and veterans today!
Visit **ABSRecord.com/military**.

QUIET TIME

“The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart.” Hebrews 4.12 (GNT)

September 2014

God's Word:

Filling Us With
God's Wisdom

- 1 Psalm 37
- 2 Psalm 119.1-16
- 3 Psalm 119.17-32
- 4 Psalm 119.33-48
- 5 Psalm 119.49-64
- 6 Psalm 119.65-80
- 7 Psalm 119.81-96
- 8 Psalm 119.97-112
- 9 Psalm 119.113-128
- 10 Psalm 119.129-144
- 11 Psalm 119.145-160
- 12 Psalm 119.161-176
- 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 Matthew 5.1-20
- 19 Matthew 5.21-48
- 20 Matthew 6.19-34
- 21 Matthew 7.1-14
- 22 Matthew 7.15-29
- 23 Matthew 13.1-17
- 24 Matthew 13.18-32
- 25 Matthew 13.33-52
- 26 Proverbs 1.1-33
- 27 Proverbs 8.1-36
- 28 Proverbs 11.1-31
- 29 Proverbs 12.1-28
- 30 Proverbs 16.1-33

October 2014

God's Word:

Helping Us to Pursue
Justice and Peace

- 1 Psalm 7
- 2 Psalm 9
- 3 Psalm 10
- 4 Psalm 11
- WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 5 1 Corinthians 11.17-34
- 6 Leviticus 25.1-22
- 7 Leviticus 25.23-38
- 8 Leviticus 25.39-55
- 9 Numbers 27.1-11
- 10 Numbers 36.1-13
- 11 Deuteronomy 1.9-33
- 12 Deuteronomy 10.1-22
- 13 Deuteronomy 16.18—17.13
- 14 Psalm 72
- 15 Psalm 73
- 16 Psalm 75
- 17 Psalm 82
- 18 Psalm 85
- 19 Isaiah 2.1-22
- 20 Isaiah 3.1-15
- 21 Isaiah 5.1-30
- 22 Isaiah 11.1-6
- 23 Isaiah 24.1-23
- 24 Isaiah 29.15-24
- 25 Isaiah 32.1-20
- 26 Isaiah 33.10-24
- 27 Ezekiel 34.1-31
- 28 Habakkuk 1.1-17
- 29 Habakkuk 2.1-20
- 30 Habakkuk 3.1-19
- 31 Psalm 46

November 2014

God's Word:

Sending Us Forth With
a Thankful Heart

- 1 Genesis 1.1—2.4a
- 2 Genesis 2.4b-25
- 3 Psalm 104
- 4 Psalm 8
- 5 Psalm 24
- 6 1 Chronicles 16.8-43
- 7 Nehemiah 12.27-47
- 8 Esther 9.20-32
- 9 Job 42.1-17
- 10 Psalm 138
- 11 Psalm 145
- 12 Psalm 146
- 13 Psalm 147
- 14 Psalm 148
- 15 Psalm 149
- 16 Psalm 150
- 17 Revelation 4.1-11
- 18 Revelation 5.1-14
- 19 Psalm 92
- 20 Psalm 93
- 21 Psalm 94
- 22 Psalm 95
- 23 Psalm 96
- 24 Psalm 97
- 25 Psalm 98
- 26 Psalm 99
- THANKSGIVING DAY
- 27 Psalm 65
- 28 Psalm 66
- 29 Psalm 67
- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 30 Psalm 100

December 2014

God's Word:

Offering Us
True Joy

- 1 Mark 12.35-44
- 2 Mark 13.1-23
- 3 Mark 13.24-37
- 4 Jeremiah 10.1-16
- 5 Jeremiah 23.1-8
- 6 Nehemiah 8.1-18
- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 7 Zephaniah 1.1-18
- 8 Zephaniah 2.1-15
- 9 Zephaniah 3.1-20
- 10 Zechariah 1.1-21
- 11 Zechariah 2.1-13
- 12 Zechariah 9.9-17
- 13 Zechariah 10.1-12
- THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 14 Isaiah 35.1-10
- 15 Isaiah 56.1-8
- 16 Isaiah 57.1-21
- 17 Isaiah 60.1-22
- 18 Malachi 2.17—3.12
- 19 Malachi 3.13—4.6
- 20 Micah 5.2-15
- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 21 Luke 1.1-25
- 22 Luke 1.26-56
- 23 Luke 1.57-80
- 24 Luke 2.1-20
- CHRISTMAS DAY
- 25 John 1.1-18
- 26 John 1.10-34
- 27 Luke 2.21-40
- 28 Luke 2.41-52
- 29 Luke 3.23-38
- 30 Psalm 81
- 31 Psalm 84

BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO OUR NATION'S C

American Bible Society Expands Urban Ministry. *By Lisa Goetz*

Expanding urban Bible ministry can transform hearts and minds in cities across the United States.

Known for bringing God's Word to hard-to-reach places worldwide, American Bible Society also focuses its attention at home through key partnerships that foster Scripture engagement in cities around the country.

Through an alliance with the New York City Leadership Center (NYCLC) and Concerts of Prayer Greater New York (COPGNY), American Bible Society helped catalyze Movement Day in 2011. Since then, it has become a yearly event in New York City.

Movement Day brings together Christian leaders from the nation's largest cities to address challenges and collaborate on ways to develop and renew outreach in metropolitan communities.

"Our partnership calls leaders and churches to unite and ignite our nation to pray, engage and live God's Word with the desired outcome of seeing cities healed and transformed," says Dr. John Edgar

Photo credit: Andrew Hood.



ITIES



Caterson, executive director of Catalytic Church Partnerships at American Bible Society.

The “Now is the Time” initiative—a collaboration among American Bible Society, NYCLC and COPGNY from the first Movement Day—extends and accelerates Scripture engagement throughout the United States. This effort provides Christian leaders with discussion guides, sermon outlines and reading planners to help communities live out Scripture.

Engagement outcomes thus far have been fruitful. Since the launch of “Now is the Time,” up to 240,000 participants in 2,020 churches have been touched by God’s Word.

“So many in our nation’s cities suffer crushing wounds of the heart,” says Chris Thyberg, director of special projects at American Bible Society. “As a result, they are cut off from engaging with the Bible and experiencing the restoring power of God’s Word. These initiatives in cities nationwide not only are bringing necessary healing, but also are mobilizing this Millennial ‘justice generation’ with the transforming power of Scripture to bring restoration and wholeness.”

With its established, successful urban outreach partnerships in New York City, American Bible Society is moving into its third century by prayerfully designing a plan to extend its ministry throughout the United States.

One of American Bible Society’s third century goals includes increasing meaningful domestic Scripture engagement from its current number of 48 million people to 100 million. In two years, American Bible Society will launch its reinvigorated city Scripture engagement program in 10 strategic metropolitan areas. By 2026, American Bible Society hopes to secure a strong ministerial foothold in 100 U.S. cities.

“Engaging with partners that focus on Gospel-centric movements is not only exciting, but one of the most strategic things American Bible Society can do as it moves toward its third century,” adds Dr. Caterson.

Lisa Goetz is a contributor to Record.

You can help us share God’s Word in our nation’s cities!
Visit **ABSRecord.com/CityReach**.

IN MEMORIAM

"I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated." Psalm 62.5, 6 (GNT)

Ellen J. Ackerman

GIVEN BY JAMES DUSENBERRY

MY HUSBAND,

Hugo Anderson

GIVEN BY MARILYN ANDERSON

MY HUSBAND,

Larry Fjeldheim

GIVEN BY MRS. GLADYS FJELDHEIM

Sue Flournoy

GIVEN BY RICHARD L. FLOURNOY

Jimmy Franklin

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. RONALD HARRIS

Ella Johnson

GIVEN BY A.M. JOHNSON

MY MOTHER AND MY AUNT,

Helen and Wilma Hiaines

GIVEN BY LONNIE NUZUM

Verna Martin

GIVEN BY JILL SCOTT

MY UNCLE,

Peter Overbeek

GIVEN BY CASEY TER HAAR

MY FAMILY,

**Oscar, Elin, John, Reynold,
Sidney and Wilton Pearson
and Nils Peter Johnson**

GIVEN BY THE WILTON L. PEARSON TRUST FUND

Mary Jo Russ

GIVEN BY MR. DAVID RUSS

Patricia Satorius

GIVEN BY MRS. LINDA ANDERSON

Jean Stover

GIVEN BY O.B. STOVER

MY WIFE,

Fonda Vorpahl

GIVEN BY MR. PETER VORPAHL

ABSRecord.com/TributeGiving

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 process, please write to **Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.**

The Gift That Keeps Giving



Don Horton (left) with his son, Larry. Through giving charitable gift annuities to American Bible Society, Don provides sustainable, lifelong income for himself and his son.

“It’s an eternal investment that pays me a good income for life and then lives on — supporting God’s kingdom into the future.” – Don Horton

Don Horton has a knack for business. And to him, contributing to American Bible Society through charitable gift annuities just makes good business sense.

Don believes in the importance of hard work, family and responsible stewardship. After serving in the military during the Korean War, he returned home and eventually started a carpet cleaning business. When he retired, he sold the business to his son, Larry.

Now, Don continues to receive safe, dependable income through the charitable gift annuities he has given to American Bible Society. He even uses some of that income to take out additional charitable gift annuities for his son, Larry, who will be able to use the income throughout his lifetime. Eventually, all of Don’s contributions will help advance Bible work around the world, which truly reflects his deepest values.

For more information about how a charitable gift annuity can benefit you and your loved ones:



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This Christmas give God's Word to our brave Troops and Veterans

As you prepare for the Christmas season, thousands of courageous men and women in harm's way and veterans here at home are isolated, lonely and afraid.

So many are desperate for hope. For today . . .
and for eternity!

**This Christmas, for just \$5 you can help give
one of our heroes the greatest gift of all:
God's Word!**

Your generous gift can help encourage a brave Service Member who has sacrificed so much for us. Will you be a hero for our American heroes by sending a gift TODAY?

Every \$5 will help place a Bible into the hands of a Troop or Veteran who longs for the comfort of God's Word.

DETACH



**Yes! This Christmas,
I will help provide Bibles
to our American heroes!**

☐ Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____!

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CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE # _____

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