

Record

LIVES CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

SPRING 2021

Passing the Torch of Faith and Liberty

PAGE 14



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

“To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.”

📖 HEBREWS 11:1



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ABOUT THE COVER

In May 2021, the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center will officially open its doors in historic Philadelphia, so that students and families from across America and around the world can experience the history-changing message of the Bible. Photo Credit: Getty Images, aldomurillo.

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 United Bible Societies, a fellowship of Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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Hearts Made New

*A message from Robert Briggs,
American Bible Society President and CEO*

Dear Friends,

Many people are longing for a fresh start in 2021 after the many hardships of this past year. (Perhaps you can relate!)

So, as the flowers in your garden begin to bloom and the fresh hope of Easter starts to stir in your heart, take a quiet moment to close your eyes and bask in the beautiful promise of Jesus in Revelation 21:5a:

“I make all things new.”

Praise God! Thanks to your steadfast partnership with American Bible Society, millions of people around the world are also experiencing a fresh start in Jesus Christ.

In this issue of *Record* magazine, you will meet some of the grateful souls you are reaching with the life-changing message of the Bible—from a chaplain in the U.S. Army to a Deaf community in Vietnam to a resilient daughter in Colombia.

You will also meet some remarkable families who, like you, are committed to passing the torch of Christian faith and God-given liberty to the next generation of Americans.

As you read these stories, be encouraged! God is using your prayers and your gifts to change lives. Because above all, Jesus delights to give us *new hearts* through the power of his Holy Word.

Yours in Christ,



Robert L. Briggs

P.S. Thank you for doing your part to help people in our nation and around the world experience new life through the Bible!

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COVER PHOTO: Gettyimages.com; OPENING PHOTO: Doug Nottage, American Bible Society

TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Courtesy of the Rogers family; BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Gettyimages.com



MILITARY MIRACLES

YOU LIFTED UP
ONE MILITARY
CHAPLAIN IN HER
HOUR OF NEED.

By Jack Newman

U.S.

U.S. Navy Lieutenant Tianna Ren is no stranger to miracles. Her life story is full of them:

The fact that she lives in America rather than her birth country of China. The fact that she is a military chaplain. The fact that she is even a Christian at all.

But Tianna recently received a miracle so extraordinary, that she simply can't stop talking about it:

The Bible that you gave her.

COVER PHOTO: Gettyimages.com

"It literally changed my life!" Tiana says.

To understand why this particular Bible meant so much to Tianna, you have to know a little something about her past and the many miracles that brought her ... and you ... together in God's Word.

THE FIRST MIRACLE: CONVERTED

"In China, most people are atheists."

This is Tianna's candid and accurate description of her home country. Sadly, it would take a miracle for a little girl born in China 40 years ago to grow up in a Christian home.

But in the nick of time, that's exactly what God provided for Tianna.

"I was born in 1981," Tianna explains. "But in 1980, a missionary came to Shanghai, and my mother and grandmother were converted to Christianity."

Against all odds, Tianna grew up with not one, but *two* godly role models in her life—an extraordinary gift that bore great spiritual fruit in Tianna's life as she grew up.

"During my first year of high school, I was born again—very clearly," Tianna says. "I met Jesus! He died on the cross for me. God shined a light into my heart, and it forever changed my life."

THE SECOND MIRACLE: CALLED

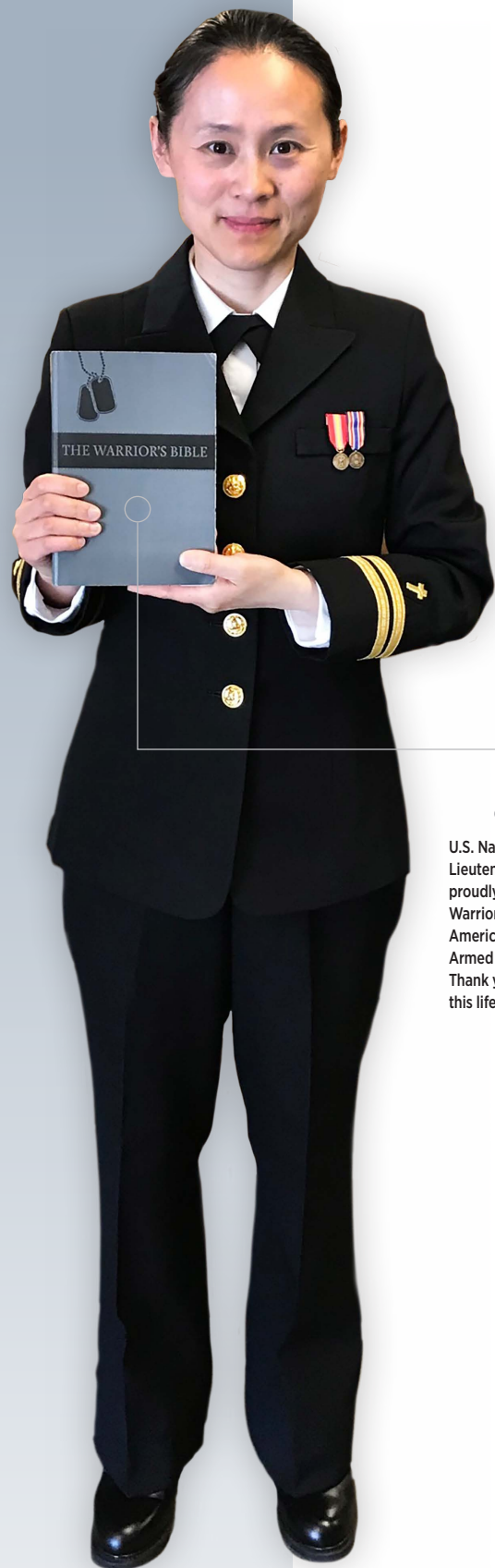
Eager to serve her newfound Lord and Savior, Tianna decided to attend Nanjing Seminary in China after graduating from high school.

**“I SERVED
THE
CHURCH
IN CHINA
FOR FIVE
YEARS,
PREACHING
AND
VISITING
PEOPLE.”**

"I served the church in China for five years, preaching and visiting people," she says. "In fact, I served in one of the biggest churches in China with 20,000 members!"

Despite a thriving ministry in her home country, an impossible dream was growing inside Tianna's heart: She wanted to come to America ... and God provided another miracle.

"God miraculously opened the door for me to come to the United States!" Tianna says. "I applied to Yale Divinity School and got accepted. They even gave me a scholarship. There was no way I could have come here financially without that scholarship."



U.S. Navy Pokusevski Lieutenant Tianna Ren proudly displays her Warriors Bible from American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry. Thank you for sending her this life-changing Bible!

THE THIRD MIRACLE: YOU

After Tianna graduated from Yale, God continued to bless every step of her miraculous journey. After getting married, she decided to join the Navy in order to obtain a path to U.S. citizenship.

But as a U.S. Navy Chaplain, all of Tianna's spiritual training would be put to the test on the battlefield of spiritual warfare.

Tianna spends her days pouring out her life for the women and men sacrificing so much for our nation through military service. For five years now, she's cared for Service members who have turned to alcohol to cope with the pain of military life, as well as married couples struggling to reconnect after a deployment.

The problem was, Tianna spent so much time ministering to the spiritual needs of *others*, she did not tend to the deep needs of *her own soul*.

"One year after giving birth to my second girl, I was very down spiritually. Life was consuming me—spiritually and mentally—with two little kids at home," Tianna says. "I didn't have a good plan for staying connected with the Bible. As a busy mother, I was not spending enough time on my relationship with God."

Wounded and weary, Tianna trudged into her office lobby one morning when the glimmer of another budding miracle caught her eye.

"I saw a copy of the *Warriors Bible* from American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry sitting on our 'free resource' table," Tianna says. "Someone had left that Bible in the entrance of my office for any Service member to take."

The *Warriors Bible* is a copy of God's Word custom-built for Military members like Tianna.

PHOTO: Courtesy of Tianna Ren

In addition to the 75-day Basic Training in the Bible reading challenge, it contains articles, devotionals, and biblical commentary written by Christian military personnel on topics that deal with military life issues.

"It's the best Bible I've ever read," Tianna says. "It was so relevant to my military experience, because it was written by military chaplains using military terminology. They've been in the war zone. They understand what military life looks like. It showed me a different angle of viewing God as a warrior and Jesus as our commander-in-chief."

"GOD USES WHATEVER YOU GIVE TO MAKE MIRACLES HAPPEN."

As a seminary graduate two times over, Tianna admits that she wasn't expecting to stumble across such a life-changing Bible resource in the middle of her life's journey.

"I found so many new insights from the passages that I had never found there before—and I know Greek and Hebrew!" she laughs.

YOU MAKE MIRACLES HAPPEN!

For Tianna, the provision of this customized biblical resource was just another example of God's miraculous intervention in her life—and it was a gift that keeps on giving.

PHOTO: Mary Keller



For more than 200 years, the Armed Services Ministry of American Bible Society has been the only ministry that offers military-specific Scripture resources to our Military members and their families. Thank you for making this impact possible!

"Reading the Bible is just like eating. We have to do it every day!" Tianna explains. "Every morning is like manna from heaven—like eating a spiritual breakfast. Thank you for helping me develop that habit myself and for helping me share God's love with others!"

Tianna wants you to know how grateful she is for the military miracles that you make possible.

"Just like he used five loaves and two fishes, God uses whatever you give to American Bible Society to make miracles happen," Tianna says. "It's a good stewardship of your resources, and I want to say *thank you!*"

+ You can help military heroes like Tianna anchor their service in God's Word. Visit **give.bible/military** to support our troops today!



4 Bible Ministry Updates from Around the World

Glimpses of how God's Word is changing lives, thanks to you.

Your Deaf brothers and sisters in Vietnam want to say "Thank you!" for bringing them the good news of God's Word in the language they use every day.

1 The Bible in Sign Language

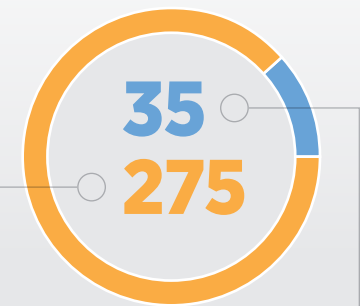
Jade will never forget the first time she encountered God's Word in her heart language. Instead of holding a Bible in her hands, she watched the Scriptures on the big screen, brought to life by Vietnamese Sign Language interpreters.

"My heart was overwhelmed," Jade said. When she returned to her village, she saved enough money to buy a smartphone, which allowed her to access the Bible stories translated and

published by Vietnam Bible Society. "I've watched each video more than 10 times," she said. "It is so wonderful to meditate on the Word of God at home. I hope to have more Bible story videos."

For international Deaf communities, Bible translation has been a long time coming. Five percent of the world's population experiences disabling hearing loss, and millions of people communicate, think, and pray in Sign Language. But for most of the Deaf population, the Bible is still only available in a written format. For those who can read, the printed Bible often lacks life and clarity. For those who cannot, God's Word remains out of reach.

PHOTO: Courtesy of Vietnam Partnership



Sign languages still waiting for God's Word

Sign languages with some Scripture portion

Today 35 Sign Languages have access to some Scripture. But 275 languages are still waiting, making the world's 300 million Deaf people one of the largest unreached people groups.

But thanks to you, change is coming! Deaf communities are celebrating the completion of the American Sign Language Version (ASLV), the first complete translation of God's Word into a Sign Language—a project taking 53 translators and 38 years to complete.

With the ASLV Bible completed, future Sign Language translation projects have a template to follow. Technological advances and growing digital access in Deaf communities will accelerate the distribution of God's Word.

You brought the full Bible to life in Sign Language for 400,000 Deaf Americans!

Thanks to your generosity, people like J.P., a young Deaf man, are seeing their lives transformed. "I become so engrossed in it that I watch some parts over and over again," he says. "Sign Language is beautiful and exciting, and it draws me into God's Word."

Thank you for bringing the Bible to life for Deaf brothers and sisters around the world!

2 One Million Bibles for Latin America

Over one million people in Latin America who didn't have access to God's Word are now reading the Bible and being shepherded toward a relationship with Jesus—all thanks to the God-given vision and generosity of some very special American Bible Society partners.

The 1 Million Bible Project, which ran from 2018 to 2020, provided more than 1 million people with their very own copy of the New Testament as well as a personal spiritual mentor to help them read and understand God's Word. Thank you to the faithful partners who made this Great Commission vision a reality!

A Bible Miracle in Latin America!

-  **1,150,000**
New Testaments distributed
-  **928,000**
People discipled
-  **11**
Countries participating

1. Nicaragua
2. Argentina
3. Bolivia
4. Uruguay
5. Paraguay
6. Ecuador
7. Peru
8. Guatemala
9. Venezuela
10. Cuba
11. Chile





You gave the best Christmas gift ever—the good news of God’s Word—to families struggling because of the COVID-19 crisis. These grateful women received Bibles and toys for their families at a Salvation Army drive-through toy drive in Harrisburg, PA. Thank you for blessing those in need with the gift of God’s comfort and joy!

3 COVID-19 Emergency Relief

God’s message of hope and healing is spreading faster than any virus thanks to your generosity in this unprecedented season of global distress.

Over \$4 million have gone to sustain 35 Bible Societies that would have otherwise been forced to shutter their ministry for good. “It was like finding an oasis of fresh water in the middle of the intense desert!” says Bible Society of Panama leader Marco Gomez of the emergency spiritual relief that you provided.



Mozambique

According to Ivone in Mozambique, you provided her and her community with “the greatest gift in the world.” She writes, “This Bible came at the right time in my life. The COVID-19 pandemic closed my church, and I didn’t have a Bible. But now I have my own.”




Panama

When Panama’s borders closed due to COVID-19, many migrants were trapped with nowhere to stay. Churches partnered with the Bible Society to give food and Bibles to the homeless migrants. According to one pastor, “Many of them met the Lord!”



United States

Through a partnership with the Salvation Army, you provide critical Bible resources to people in need every year. At this year’s drive-through Christmas toy distribution, families were offered Bibles, our *Beyond Disaster* trauma healing book, and a Christmas card.

 Send more Bibles to those in need! give.bible/emergency

4 Bible for Zimbabwe Nearing Completion

Zimbabwe is a country in need—and that was before COVID-19. In addition to suffering from one of the worst droughts in decades, which has left half the population at risk of hunger, Zimbabwe is in the grip of a deep economic crisis. Only around 5-10 percent of the population is officially employed, leaving most Zimbabweans to scrape a living as street vendors or subsistence farmers.

But hope is rising in this southern African country. Thanks to your prayers and support, a new Bible translation in the language of Chikunda is due for completion in 2023—and seeing this finish line fills this people group with excitement and endurance.

“I would like to thank the donors who are involved with the Chikunda translation,” says Tendai Khatiza, 32, pictured below reading his Chikunda New Testament outside his house. Tendai is eagerly awaiting the very first full Chikunda Bible.

“I will read the Bible fully and no one will need to interpret,” Tendai says. “I am going to understand the Bible myself because it’s in my own language. So I am very happy!”

Zimbabwe by the Numbers



14M
population



500K
Chikunda speakers



50%
at risk of hunger due to drought



90%
unemployment rate

In their words...

“Thank you, I’ve been wanting a Bible!”

“I really need to get back to church.”

“I didn’t have a Bible in my language until now.”

“It’s just what I wanted!”



PHOTO: Courtesy of the Salvation Army Metropolitan Division

PHOTO: Andrea Rhodes



A Legacy of Faith and Liberty

DISCOVER THE
HERITAGES AND
HOPES OF THREE
FAMILIES INVESTING
IN AMERICA'S
FUTURE THROUGH THE
FAITH AND LIBERTY
DISCOVERY CENTER.

by Laura Chan

When its doors officially open to the public in May 2021, the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center in historic Philadelphia will tell a lost story: the story of the Bible's influence on the great American experiment.

To tell that story, you inevitably have to tell the rich and complex stories of our Founders—of the faith many professed and how it influenced their lives and political persuasions. John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States, learned his views of justice from the Bible. John Adams said that true morality is derived from the Scriptures. William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania, took great pains to instill religious freedom in the land.

Biblical values like these—justice, faith, hope, liberty, and love—are now guiding the next generation of American patriots and changemakers. We interviewed several of these families who have generously supported the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center to learn more about their families' histories and their motivations for perpetuating a legacy of faith and liberty.

Do you hear echoes of your own story in theirs?



Like you, Brenda and Randy Rogers are staunchly committed to the cause of the Bible and to the importance of religious liberty in our land and around the world.

Randy and Brenda Rogers

Living Up to a Legacy

Talking to Randy and Brenda Rogers is like talking to old friends. Brenda is quick and compassionate, and Randy has the deliberate gentility you expect from a Texan. And they both have eyes that sparkle when they talk about the Lord.

Both Randy and Brenda were born and raised in the Lone Star State of Texas. Their children all live near them, and they love their church and community. God has blessed them with a profitable commercial real estate company. In their circumstances, it might be easy to live comfortable and self-focused lives. But the Rogers do just the opposite. They're passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus with the college students around them, and they're strategically generous with their finances—desiring for God to grow their hearts for the world around them.

This mission to spread the truth of the gospel is part of Randy's heritage. One of his ancestors,

“Our religious freedom came at quite a price. We have to be prepared to stand for our faith.” –Randy Rogers

the Rev. John Rogers, helped translate the first Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew. This translation work came at a great price—his life. But John Rogers accepted the translation task knowing the risk. William Tyndale had begun this translation and was martyred on October 6, 1536 for daring to make the Bible accessible in English—accessible for all people and not just the elite who knew Latin.

After Tyndale was burned at the stake, John Rogers followed by the Rev. Miles Coverdale finished the translation, which became known as the Matthew Bible. In fact, the scholars who translated the King James Version drew significantly from the Matthew Bible! John Rogers was subsequently also burned at the stake, and he died advocating for the truth of his beliefs.

On a family trip to England, Randy and Brenda happened upon the very spot where John Rogers had been martyred on Feb 4, 1555. For Randy, that experience and his lineage are sobering reminders of the sacrifices that faith requires.

“Our religious freedom came at quite a price,” says Randy. “There’s a sense in America right now that we’re losing some of those freedoms. I hope we’re not part of the generation that learns what that’s like. We have to be prepared to stand for our faith.”

For Randy and Brenda, taking a stand for their faith like their ancestors includes investing in the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center.

“Part of what’s so important about the FLDC is that it helps preserve our nation’s history,” says Randy. “It’s good to remember that although we were founded by sinful men and women, we were also founded on biblical principles. I think many Americans don’t have a clue about that historical aspect of our nation.”

These biblical principles are important to Randy and Brenda because they were both taught God’s Word from a young age.



The Rogers family (from left to right): Ryan, Austin, Heather, Brenda, Randy, and Bethany.

LEFT PHOTO: Heather Rogers; RIGHT PHOTO: Mark Sykes

“I was raised in a Christian home, and my mother from an early age would get up and read the Bible to us, and we’d memorize Scripture,” says Randy. This practice of routinely engaging in the Bible continued into Randy’s and Brenda’s adult lives, and they’ve grown closer to the Lord through His Word throughout their relationship. Brenda explains, “Early in our marriage, the Bible came alive. We were seeking out cassette tapes to listen to in order to learn about our faith. We were super hungry for more of the Word.”

This hunger has continued as both Brenda and Randy draw daily strength from the Bible.

“The Bible is a lamp to my feet; it’s where I go to try to stay grounded,” Randy says. “When you’ve been as fortunate as we have and made a little bit of money, the downside is that you can start believing you don’t need God. You have to take on the challenge to stay in the Word and try to stay grounded.”

One way the Bible has helped the Rogers stay focused on God’s purposes is by pointing them to deeper generosity.

“I looked at the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus says, ‘Where your heart is, your treasure will be also,’” Randy recalls. Reading Scriptures like these prompted Randy to decide to give 20 percent of his company’s profits to ministries that share the Good News with people who are waiting. Randy says that this decision to give is what has increased his awareness and love for God’s people. “The more we started giving to organizations that were translating the Bible or feeding the poor, the more God gave us a heart for these communities. It’s not so much that God gave us a heart for them and then we gave; it’s that we chose to give in faith and then our hearts followed.”

The Rogers are excited to see how God continues to grow their heart for the faith fabric of the United States through their support of the FLDC. “Our nation has had the Bible for a long time, and we take that for granted,” says Randy. “We want to preserve our heritage.”

Randy and Brenda strive to instill biblical values in their children and humbly pray that they honor the great legacy of faith that they’re a part of. They hope for Americans to meet God and strive to honor Him, and they pray that they’ll be ready to answer for their faith—no matter what the future holds. Randy somberly asserts, “If we’re a generation that’s called to martyrdom too, we hope we stand up too.”

Linda Bean

Supporting Preservation and Patriotism

Linda Lorraine Bean exudes passion, whether discussing her Maine businesses, America’s history and future, or the delight of gazing upon a dark, unpolluted sky filled with stars. She is both informed and inquisitive as she approaches 80 years. Looking to her legacy is a priority for Linda as she helps future generations learn and guard America’s rich heritage.

The pursuit of a more perfect nation begins in Linda Bean’s own history. She traces her lineage back to several ancestors who sailed to America on the Mayflower for religious freedom. Eight of



Named after her Maine grandfather, Leon L. Bean, Linda Lorraine Bean is one of the founding partners of the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center.

her ancestors signed the Mayflower Compact, the first social contract of the European settlers to enable social and governing unity among the diverse passengers seeking religious and economic freedom.

“I have a very deep feeling of commitment to our Founding Fathers all the way back to that time,” says Linda. “They battled together against starvation and the cold of New England winters to explore unknown shores and to build churches and homes on the edge of the wilderness.”

Linda admires how the early settlers—out of necessity—created small, interconnected communities based on biblical principles. “Biblical values are the glue of our society,” says Linda. “We need to feel like small communities again and not just ‘numbers’ in a vast world population. Our community and family

“ **Biblical values
are the glue of
our society.”**
—Linda Bean

relationships need to be strengthened. Our church relationships need to be strengthened. These are the things that lead to a moral society.”

For Linda, a focus on our nation’s future begins in its past. “I’m a patriot. I’m very big on our historic and patriotic heritage. To advance that in the minds and hearts of young people today is a personal mission of mine.” She has invested in the FLDC because she recognizes it as an opportunity to tell the untold story of the Bible’s influence in our founding—and to tell it right



TOP LEFT PHOTO: Linda Bean was excited to trace her family lineage in America back 400 years to the pilgrims aboard the Mayflower. Some of Linda's brave ancestors even signed the Mayflower Compact in 1620.

TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Linda cares deeply about passing the torch of faith and liberty to the next generation of Americans. Here she is enjoying the Maine outdoors with her granddaughter Eliza Grace Clark.

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: American history buffs Linda Bean, Tim and Carol Houseal, and David and Kelly Kullberg visit Philadelphia's iconic Independence Hall, which stands directly across the street from the new Faith and Liberty Discovery Center.



on Independence Mall in historic Philadelphia. She says she's excited about the location because of its prominence with visitors and because, "Philadelphia is a wonderful cradle of American religious freedom."

Linda grew up as a believer and wants others to have an opportunity to learn about God's work in our nation. "I sort of had a natural childlike faith," says Linda. "But to give full credit, my parents made sure I went to Bible school."

Although she drifted away from her faith as a teenager and adult, when she had children, she was reminded of the value of trusting God and became what she calls an "excited Christian"—eager to apply her beliefs to her life.

Linda hopes to share the values of our founders with the next generation. She particularly likes the idea of children, parents, and grandparents all learning together and having their values reinforced by the religious giants who helped make America what it is today.

"Faith and liberty are the anchors in life," says Linda. "The FLDC will tell this American story of how the Bible, the Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence together shaped the concept a nation—our nation."

Through centuries of struggle against our human imperfection, America has endeavored to stay within these founding documents. They, and America, have had a transformative influence in the world. It's this biblical influence that Linda hopes will be remembered and lived out for years to come.

**“Faith and liberty are the anchors in life. The FLDC will tell this American story.”
—Linda Bean**

"I'm thrilled with the prospect of the FLDC and its lessons enduring far beyond my lifetime," she says.

For this granddaughter of Leon L. Bean, it's important for each of us to do our part to share the beauty of our nation. Linda loves introducing people to the rugged beauty of New England, to the specific "goût de terroir" (flavor of the land) of Maine lobster, and to the religious fabric that makes up the United States of America. She's doing her part to pass on these values and encourages others to do their part too.

"It is a privilege and a blessing to make a difference so that when the Lord takes us, we can leave something meaningful behind," says Linda.

THE FAITH AND LIBERTY DISCOVERY CENTER



Grand Opening May 1, 2021

The Faith and Liberty Discovery Center (FLDC) is an immersive Bible center that will share how the Bible guided our nation's founders and continues to influence innovators and changemakers today.



250,000 Visitors

We expect 250,000 people a year to visit the FLDC and engage with the history-making story of the Bible's influence on America.



25,000 Square Feet

With 25,000 square feet of interactive gallery space to explore, guests will have a lot to discover about America's heritage of faith.



\$53.5 Million Raised

89% of the funding needed to complete the FLDC has been raised, with \$17M invested in FY20, keeping us on track for our grand opening in 2021.



From a young age, Frank Kelly III (front row, white shirt) remembers his parents, Frank and Janet (second row on right), living out the biblical values of winsome truth, fervent prayer, and generous giving. Those values have led to nearly 50 years of growth and success as a family business and will live on through the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center.

The Kelly Family

Proclaiming the Truth of Jesus

Frank Kelly III is all business, all family, and all faith. He is what you expect from a successful CEO and a board member for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes: a man of confidence and

ethics who exudes passion for the gospel. It's telling that he spoke to us on his way back from a venue the family was checking out for their son's wedding. For Frank III as well as for his parents and siblings, God and family come first.

The Kelly family has a classic American dream story. In 1976, the Honorable Francis X. (Frank) Kelly, Jr. and his wife, Janet, started a small health insurance agency in their basement. Forty-five years later, Kelly Benefits has a large headquarters, hundreds of employees, and serves more than 10,000 clients. Since the 1990s, Frank and Janet's four sons, Frank III,

PHOTOS: Courtesy of the Kelly Family

“ American Bible Society is proclaiming truth in a relevant way that can be accessed by millions of people.” –Frank Kelly III

John, David, and Bryan, have overseen the company's operations and services.

When you speak to any of the Kellys, you'll quickly learn that they are interested in leaving more than just a business legacy in the world; they want to leave a legacy of faith. Frank Kelly III, CEO of Kelly Benefits, credits his parents' faith-grounded approach with helping set the business and the family on the right track.

“They modeled God's love and truth through their presence,” he says. “They modeled prayer with and for us, with their children and their grandchildren. And they modeled biblical values in their giving. Even before they started making any money, they were generous givers who faithfully practiced tithing-plus.”

For Frank III personally, it took a while to put together the puzzle pieces of faith his parents had given him, but once he made the commitment to follow Jesus, he never looked back. His personal faith walk started in an unlikely place: in the middle of a lacrosse field at Cornell University. During a particularly rough practice, it hit him that he couldn't lead a right and fulfilling life if partying and sports were his “little-g” gods. Recognizing that his only hope was the God his parents and a few teammates had told him about, he opened up his heart on that field and prayed that even if he never played lacrosse again, he wanted to believe, receive, and prioritize a relationship with Jesus Christ.

That step led young Frank to a Bible study that

changed the trajectory of his life—although he didn't know it at first. In fact, in the first couple of “studies” he attended, he never found a single Scripture they referenced because he didn't know where to find them in the small Bible his dad had given him as a young teenager. Now, he says the Bible is a light to his path, and he wants future generations to also grow in their relationships with God through the wisdom of His Word.

“Between me and my brothers, we have 22 kids,” Frank shares. “And we think a lot about generational impact, about wanting God and His Word to be honored for future generations.” The Kelly family was able to visit the site of the FLDC while it was under construction and caught the vision for this space that talks about the biblical heritage of America. Frank and his family view the FLDC as a monumental witness.

The Honorable Francis X. Kelly, Jr. (center) with Janet and their four sons (left to right): John, Frank III, David, and Bryan. Together they oversee the Kelly Benefits companies. Their family and company motto is “God Is Our Tower of Strength.”





TOP LEFT PHOTO: The sport of lacrosse runs deep in the Kelly family. Here is Frank III during his days playing for the Cornell Big Red in the mid-eighties.

TOP RIGHT PHOTO: In 1976, the Honorable Francis X. (Frank) Kelly, Jr. and his wife, Janet, started a small health insurance agency in their basement. Forty-five years later, Kelly Benefits has a large headquarters, hundreds of employees, and serves more than 10,000 clients.

LOWER PHOTO: Frank III gave his life to Christ after a particularly trying lacrosse practice at Cornell. He remembers praying to God, “Even if I never play again, I need You in my life.”



“The Scriptures tell us that faith comes from hearing—and hearing from the Word of God. At some point you’ve got to proclaim the truth so people can receive it,” Frank says. “American Bible Society is proclaiming that truth in a relevant way for millions of people.”

Some might hesitate to put their company name on a religious landmark, but not the Kellys. “We want our names identified with this effort, because of our passion to proclaim God’s love and truth,” explains Frank. “We’re not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of his Word!”

+ Reflect on your own legacy of faith and explore the biblical values that built America at **faithandliberty.org**.

Faith and Liberty for All

Whether their last name is Rogers, Bean, or Kelly, the FLDC is now part of a family legacy that these remarkable individuals want to share in the name of Jesus. In the exhibits of the FLDC, they hope curious people will recognize the influence of the Bible in our nation’s history—and seek God in the pages of Scripture.

Along with these stories, thousands of partners, like you, fuel the ministries of American Bible Society and proclaim faith and liberty through your generous support and passionate prayers.

Thank you for championing the life-changing message of the Bible in our nation and around the world! 📖



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The Faith and Liberty Discovery Center will tell the rich history of the Bible’s influence on America when it opens on May 1, 2021.

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advance.faithandliberty.org

CANCER, QUARANTINE, AND GOD'S WORD

YOU HELPED
ANDREA
MEET JESUS
IN HER GRIEF.

by Laura Chan

First came the distant reports: *disease is spreading*. Then the guidelines: *stay 6 feet apart, wear masks, wash your hands*. Then the shutdown: *stay home, close your businesses, limit travel*.

As in most of the world, COVID-19 put Andrea Salamanca's country of Colombia in lockdown from March through the end of August 2020. Andrea jokes that she's spent the last five years of her life in quarantine. That's because she lives in the countryside outside of rural Viotá, where the animals outnumber the people and where thousands of insects buzz from dusk to dawn. For her, it's a treat to visit family in her hometown—the not-so-nearby city of Bogotá.

Her last trip to Bogotá, however, was not so welcome. In February 2020, Andrea's mother had been diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma—a rare and lethal cancer of the bile ducts. Just one month later in March 2020, Andrea's mother went to be with the Lord.

Andrea made the long trip to Bogotá to organize her mother's affairs. When she arrived at her mother's home, it still smelled like simmering *ajiaco*, a traditional chicken and potato soup—remnants of her mother's rich cooking. Everything was how she remembered it, only nothing felt the same.

Andrea mourned her mother's loss in a COVID-19-style funeral. Five people were allowed to attend. Andrea had to keep a distance from her relatives. They all hid their grief behind masks. There was no sense of closure.

Growing up, Andrea's mother had been her rock. "She was a woman of God and a woman of much prayer," says Andrea. "She decided to not develop her career so she could stay home and care for us and raise us." Her mother took Andrea to church and taught her to love God. When Andrea's father abandoned the family, her mother took on the full burden of caring for Andrea and her two sisters. So with her mother gone, Andrea felt unmoored.

In her isolation, Andrea turned to God's Word. "The pandemic has changed my way of reading the Bible," she says. "Now it's much more constant throughout the day."

OUR PAIN GETS SMALLER

Still, Andrea felt alone in her pain. She was seeking God, but she was struggling to feel the release of the promise of Scripture. When a friend at the local Bible Society told her about a Bible-based group study she was going to lead called "Healing the Wounds of the Heart," Andrea immediately signed up to participate. "I knew my heart had been wounded," she says. "I knew I needed this."

Through the group, week by week, God pulled Andrea closer. In His Word and through His

people, God met Andrea in her grief. One message in particular spoke to her about taking her sorrow to Jesus. She says, "The lesson 'If God Loves Us, Why Do We Suffer?' helped me understand that there's a meaning to our suffering. It leads to the Cross, and when we're there, our pain gets smaller."

For many like Andrea, simply acknowledging grief is an important part of loosening its chokehold. "Before I went through the healing group, I didn't have a sense of how to walk through grief. I didn't understand it," explains Andrea. "Now I understand the grief journey is a long journey. It can't be rushed. There are various stages in it, and it's helpful to know about them to be able to advance to the next one."

Through Bible-based trauma healing groups, participants learn that lament is a biblical response to suffering. Leaders trained through the local Bible Society help people apply the truths of Scripture to their own grief journeys.

**“THE
PANDEMIC
HAS
CHANGED
MY WAY OF
READING
THE
BIBLE.”**

One exercise involves writing out a lament—coming to God with honest words about the hurt they’ve experienced. When Andrea put pen to paper to tell God all she was carrying, He met her right where she was. He comforted her. She says, “When I wrote my lament, that enabled me to open my heart to God, and I was able to rest in Him.”

SHARING THE HEALING

Having received the blessing of rest and relief from God, Andrea was eager to share the blessing of Bible-based trauma healing. She had found healing through the ministry, so she signed up to train through the Bible Society to become a leader who could bring others along the same healing journey.

Andrea didn’t want to waste any time in sharing what she’d experienced. She made posters. She called friends. “I’ve felt like I’m not alone and God hasn’t left me,” she says. “If he’s done this for me, he can do it for others.”

In the first group she led, God surprised

“I’VE
FELT LIKE
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ALONE
AND GOD
HASN’T
LEFT ME.”

her. She knew people would respond, but she didn’t know how fully they’d open up. On one occasion, during the healing group conversation about childhood experiences, a gentleman shared about how his father had abused him—something Andrea understood too well. Andrea was moved by this man’s journey to resting in God. She says, “I saw how in the end, through God’s Word, through the healing group activities, the man was able to rest. To pray. To cry and cry. And to feel that God was saying that He was there, that He was with him. So, for me, this was one of the ways I saw God healing a wound.”

For Andrea, stories like these reflect the beauty of Christian community. When she needed it most, her friend invited her to this powerful group where she could receive biblical truth and meet Christ in her pain. Then, when others needed it most, Andrea was there to share the same hope for healing with them. She says that as she presses forward, she clings to the promise of Isaiah 26:3: “You, LORD, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you.”

Although Andrea still experiences the sorrow of life without her mother, she also experiences the blessing of being comforted by Jesus. She says she’s been listening to hear how others express their pain so she can tell them, “Wait. Listen. Let God enter your heart.” She’s starting more Bible-based trauma healing groups soon and is grateful for Bible Society supporters like you who made this whole healing process possible.

Now, Andrea is back home in Viotá—back to the quiet and the wide-open spaces. She’s praying, however, that her rural location won’t keep her from reaching many for Jesus. She asks you to pray: “God, open up space for us to see who are the people who need to have their wounds healed. Help us point them to You.” 🖤

Quiet Time

Yesterday, Today, and Forever

4 verses to help you find comfort in a changeless God amid challenging times.

by Elisabeth Trefsgar



ast Easter, it didn’t feel like Jesus had risen.

I spent the day at home instead of in church. I saw friends and family through a computer screen instead of around the dinner table. The world felt unknown, unsafe, and completely changed.

In fact, last Easter felt a lot like the very first Easter. John’s Gospel tells us that Jesus’s followers were huddled in a locked room, terrified of stepping out into a world that had changed overnight. Then Jesus appeared, and the “disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord” (John 20:19–20).

We live in a world full of troubles, upheaval, and change, but we can find our joy in the Risen Savior—both this Easter and every day of the year. Join me in claiming these four truths from Scripture as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection.

The world is broken—but Jesus Christ has overcome

“I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me. The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!”

JOHN 16:33

The world is suffering—but God will make all things new

“[God] will dwell with them, and they will be his people . . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”

REVELATION 21:3–5 (ESV)

The world is fading—but God’s Word is everlasting

“Yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever.”

ISAIAH 40:8

The world is changing—but Jesus Christ remains the same

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

HEBREWS 13:8



IN MEMORIAM

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!”

MATTHEW 5:4 (CEV)

in memory of
Theodore “Ted” Batterman
given by the Batterman Family

in memory of
Delores Bennett
given by Dr. and Mrs. James L. Banach

in memory of my father
Jere Lawrence Crook, Jr.
given by Jere L. Crook

in memory of
Edward Devine
given by W. Roy Grime

in memory of my husband
John B. Groff
given by Marian A. Groff

in memory of my wife
June Handwerker
given by Bob Handwerker

in memory of my wife
Shirley Warner Martin
given by Albert E. Martin

in memory of
Jeannetta Miller
given by Doug Miller

in memory of
Esther Moore
given by Angie Dozier

in memory of our uncle
Arnold A. Ohst
given by Debra and Philip Lange

in memory of my mother
June Camp Palmer
given by L. R. Palmer, Jr.

in memory of my husband
Hans Schafft
given by Lillian Schafft

in memory of my husband
W. Kent Seldal
given by Mary Seldal

in memory of
Charles H. Smith, Jr.
given by Mrs. Sandra P. Smith

in memory of
Joseph Sobaje
given by Mr. and Mrs. David G. Rogne

in memory of
Dick Thomassian
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REMEMBERING A BIBLE LEGEND

On December 7, 2020, Dr. Barclay Moon Newman, a beloved former employee and scholar of American Bible Society, passed away at the age of 89. Among his many lasting contributions to our mission, Dr. Newman chaired the groundbreaking Contemporary English Version (CEV) of the Bible. “We are trying to set God’s Word free from traditional translations that don’t speak in down-to-earth language—that don’t use everyday colloquial English to express the meaning of the eternal Word of God,” said Dr. Newman. American Bible Society mourns the loss of this beloved Bible legend and celebrates the great spiritual impact of his life!

When you give, you receive!

“Give, and it will be given to you.”

LUKE 6:38A (ESV)

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