

Record

LIVES CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

2025

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in an Unreached
Village**

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Hearts with God's
Healing Word!**

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**One Changed
Life Touches
Millions**



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

📖 MATTHEW 19:14

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ABOUT THE COVER

You sent the gospel to unreached Muslim tribes in Sierra Leone through our End-to-End program! God took your gift and multiplied it, changing hearts and lives throughout West Africa. Thank you for sharing the Good News with those who have not yet heard!

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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This Good News Is for You!

A greeting from President and CEO

Dr. Jennifer Holloran

Dear Friend,

You helped write each story in this magazine—stories of hope being built up in church pews, God’s Word strengthening those serving our nation, and the gospel going to every corner of the globe.

As I saw the many ways you’ve blessed others with the promises of the Bible this year, I was reminded that this is our story, too!

The same hope, peace, and joy that people experience thanks to your generosity belong to you and me through Jesus Christ. God’s Word is full of his promises—it’s the gift we receive, the gift we can share, and the gift that never runs out. It reminds me of Peter’s words in the early days of his ministry:

“For God’s promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away—all whom the Lord our God calls to himself” (Acts 2:39).

Because of you, more people are encountering God in his Word. It’s thrilling to imagine how your generosity will echo for generations. But as you read this magazine, I hope you consider how God is working now, in your own walk with him. How has your life been transformed by the message of Jesus? What promises do you see unfolding in your heart? And where might God be calling you to share the Good News next?

I hope you find encouragement in the stories you read here, along with the Daily Bible Reading Guide we’ve included to help you begin the new year. We can trust that God is always working to transform our hearts and minds daily as we meditate on the miracle of our Savior. I invite you to join us in this Bible-reading journey and continue praying for those who have not heard God’s call. May we be faithful in carrying this precious Good News to those both near and far.

This is a life-changing mission. Thank you for trusting us to be your partner in sharing the gospel!

Gratefully yours,

Record

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A miraculous Easter in West Africa



Your Seed, God's Harvest

*Travel with a missionary pastor who is taking
the Good News to West Africa*

BY REV. DR. ALFRED LANSANA

PHOTOS BY TENNYSON JULIUS WILLIAMS

MY DEAR FRIEND, I have a story to tell you.

Although we don't know each other, I have felt your prayers and have seen the difference your gift of God's Word makes in places like my home country of Sierra Leone.

I want to tell you how your seeds of faith—planted through your ongoing prayer and generosity—have led to an incredible harvest in West Africa, taking the gospel where it has never gone before!

I Experienced Your Gift Firsthand

In my childhood days in Sierra Leone, my friends and I would run door-to-door, talking to people and inviting them to church. I didn't know that was “missions”; I never wanted to become a pastor. I simply wanted to share the love of Jesus.

Years later, I moved to the United States to study. I earned multiple degrees and built a successful career. Later, my wife Florence and I started a church in our basement. We shepherded the church into a thriving congregation near Atlanta. For many years, I have poured myself into preaching, counseling, chaplaincy, and prison outreach. But I always felt that something was missing.

That all changed two years ago, when I encountered the ministry you make possible through American Bible Society!

My wife and I were in Kenya, attending a training hosted by American Bible Society and other ministry partners. We learned about the End-to-End program and how it's being used to

I'd never encountered the Bible like this. It was as if we were hearing the gospel for the very first time.



You are helping men, women, and children in West Africa hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ through American Bible Society's End-to-End ministry and the faithful efforts of local believers. Thank you!

spread the gospel through visual, audio, and print Scripture. But we never expected that our hearts would be touched by this ministry.

I remember sitting beside my wife, holding an audio device in my hands. We were hearing the Bible come alive in Mende—the language of our hearts, the language of our families, the language we grew up thinking, praying, and dreaming in. It's impossible to tell you how amazing it was!

In English, we understand the Bible. But in Mende, we felt God's Word spark something new inside of us. Even with all my experience and studies, I'd never encountered the Bible like this. It was as if we were hearing the gospel for the very first time, and our hearts overflowed with joy.

“This is the truth. We want our children to learn this new way of knowing God.”

All I could think was, *This is what I have been looking for!* And I knew that I had found what God wanted me to do.

You Made a Way for Us to Bring the Gospel to a Muslim Village

After we realized what End-to-End could mean for sharing the gospel with our people, we couldn't wait to start.

As soon as we arrived in Sierra Leone, we began working with a missionary friend, Musa, and others to reach their communities. We were making incredible progress. But there was still a challenge ahead of us.



Because of you, this Muslim chief heard God's Word through the audio Bible in his hand and gave his life to Christ!

Sierra Leone's population is 80 percent Muslim. Other Christians had tried to bring the gospel to Muslim villages before. Even Musa had made several attempts but had been turned away.

These were the people God wanted us to reach.

When I told him where we needed to go next, Musa said he wasn't sure they would allow us to come. But I had experienced what your gift of God's Word in my language could do. Even though I wasn't certain if we would be successful, I told Musa, **“When we go, we will give them an audio Bible as a gift, so that they can begin to hear that the Jesus they are running from can speak their language.”**

With this mission, we traveled to the first village by motorbike to meet with the village chief and the local imam. Without gaining approval from these two men, there would be no way for us to reach the people. All I brought with me was the audio Bible. I gave it to the chief as a gift and told him, “This is something I have encountered, and I want to share it with you.”

My friend, you cannot imagine our joy when we returned the next day and learned that the chief had not only listened to the Bible, but told us, “There is truth in this.”

That evening, with the blessing of the chief and the imam, the village gathered together to watch the story of Jesus in Mende. As they watched the life of Jesus in their language, we saw people's faces change. They wanted more.

Then, the chief asked a question I will never forget: “Can you build a church here?”

The village wanted to begin immediately. Everyone was involved, from the youngest children bringing buckets of water to the women and men forming the bricks with their own hands to



We traveled to rural villages, carrying your gift of audio Bibles to people who didn't know that Jesus speaks their language. God made a way for us to bless these unreached communities through your generosity.

the local carpenters who built the pews and the pulpit. Even when a heavy rain destroyed their progress, the community didn't give up. For the longest time, these people had seen the Bible as foreign. But because of you, they saw and heard the gospel in Mende, and they knew this Good News was for them.

“This is the truth,” the chief told us. “We want our children to learn this new way of knowing God.”

The church used your audio Bible to learn more about God until they found a resident pastor. Soon, people from other communities began to ask us, “When will you bring a church to my village?” That's how, one Easter morning, we saw what God can do with even the smallest seed of faith.

We Saw an Easter Miracle!

When it came time for a second church in a nearby village to open its doors, it was almost Easter. But the village didn't want to celebrate

alone—they wanted to invite the neighboring villages to join them. The only issue was that Easter Sunday fell at the height of Ramadan, a month of fasting and prayer for Muslims.

People began to tell me, “This is a risky thing to do. It's too bold. Not only are you going to Muslims with the gospel, but now you want to launch a church during a time that is sacred to them.”

To tell you the truth, I didn't know what would happen. But I knew that we serve a God of miracles—he had already brought us this far.

So, on Easter Sunday, we opened the new church, joined by dozens of visitors from other Muslim villages. The crowd was so large that we needed to add extra seats outside. During that unforgettable service, we listened to the Mende audio Bible together. God worked miracles, signs, and wonders. People were healed in the name of Jesus.

Then, we invited people to give their lives to Christ.

Almost the entire congregation raised their hands, including the chief who first received your gift of Scripture in his language!

Afterward, even though it was the Ramadan fast, everyone shared the feast we had prepared to celebrate the resurrection—and the new life you brought to this village through the gospel.

Before they returned home, our visitors told us, “We’re ready. We want this same God to come to our villages.”

Your Gift is Multiplying!

After that miraculous Easter Sunday, I knew that my assignment from God was to continue this life-changing work.

We’ve already seen a spiritual harvest born from your faith and God’s faithfulness. In the original village we visited, the chief told us that the Bible helped him become a better leader and mediator. Families who were enemies for years have reconciled. Crime rates have dropped. And God answered prayer by blessing the village farms with a more bountiful harvest than ever before.

One man told us, “Since a church was established in this community, we have been brought out of darkness into the light through the teachings which have revealed truth to us.”

Today, we celebrate 14 churches built in Muslim villages in Sierra Leone since 2023!

But this good news is not just for Sierra Leone. It’s for the Kingdom.



Hearing the gospel in your heart language is an experience like no other. These Mende speakers can now hear the words of Jesus in their own language through your gift of audio Bibles like the one pictured here.



Your gift is multiplying as more people hear about the Good News of Jesus through Bible listening groups like this one. Pray that God uses the End-to-End program to spread his Word throughout West Africa and beyond!

That’s why we’re training believers in other West African nations like Senegal, Guinea, the Gambia, and Liberia on how to use End-to-End. These people are braving tough terrain, harsh weather, and even the possibility of persecution because they know the power of what they carry. The gospel is changing lives, everywhere it goes. And God is blessing our work through faithful partners like you!

Thank You for Sowing Seeds of Faith!

Every time a child hears God’s Word in their Muslim schoolroom; every time a mother sees the gospel unfold on the screen; every time a village gathers to listen to the Bible in their common language, seeds are sown.

You have opened doors to places where the gospel has not gone before!

Whether you give, pray, or even spread the news about what God is doing by sharing my story with a friend, it’s not wasted. Every seed sown in Africa is bearing fruit, and I am seeing it firsthand.

Because of you, I can say with the Apostle Paul:

My ambition has always been to proclaim the Good News in places where Christ has not been heard of, so as not to build on a foundation laid by someone else. As the scripture says, “Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.”

(Romans 15:20–21)

Thanks be to God! 🙏

Help more unreached people encounter Jesus: **Give.Bible/EndtoEnd**



Because of you, military members are encountering the promises of God's Word and chaplains are empowered to care for the souls of those serving our nation.

LIFELINES ON THE FRONT LINES

First responders, service members, and veterans say thank you for your gift of God's Word!

FROM FIRE STATIONS and sheriff's patrols to military barracks and veterans' homes, your gift of the Bible is reaching hearts in uniform—and beyond.

We often receive personal notes of thanks from the people you bless with God's Word. Here's a look at how God is using your generosity!

Steve, a Vietnam veteran, remembers receiving a Bible from faithful American Bible Society supporters while deployed in 1971. While the Bible's cover wore thin, its truth never did.

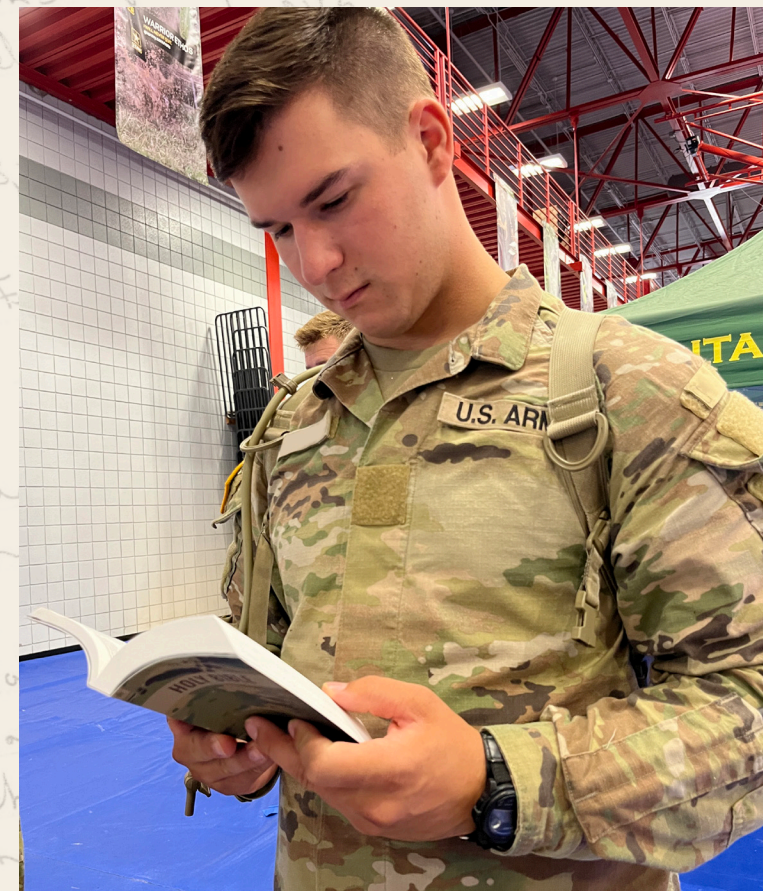
Today, Steve still feels the profound impact that Bible had on his life. "My Vietnam Bible will always be special to me," Steve writes. **"After 54 years, it was about time to write and say, 'thank you' for your gift of the life-changing Word of God to me. Thanks for your faithfulness!"**

Charlie, a member of the Army Reserves, has delivered boxes of our Warfighter Study Bibles to military members before. But recently, he felt led to share the Bibles with first responders in Arizona, including a fire station and a sheriff's

office. One firefighter revealed that his new house contained just a bed, a nightstand, and a Bible you provided. He also shared that his son was preparing for boot camp and that he was grateful to know believers like you are supporting trainees with God's Word. Later, Charlie met a sheriff's deputy who, moved by Charlie's gift of a Bible, asked for a whole box to share with his department.

"Thank you for providing these remarkable resources," Charlie writes. "These Bibles are more than books. They are lifelines for many. . . . **Your support enables me to bring hope, encouragement, and God's Word to fire stations, patrol cars, and soldiers' hands. The impact is undeniable, and I'm honored to play a role.**"

On the front lines of spiritual care, **Chaplain Michael** describes the "huge smiles and hearts of gratitude" he sees in the hundreds of trainees he serves weekly. Thanks to your support, he has been able to equip these young men and



You deliver Bibles and military-specific resources to trainees and service members across the United States. This year, your gifts also reached first responders who found hope in the promises of Scripture.

women with Bibles, ensuring that each person can encounter the love of Christ through every stage of their military career.

"We hear stories of how they have read it and how God has changed them or worked in their life," Michael says. **"We can't thank you enough for your generosity! Men, women, families, and eternity have been changed because of your gift."**

Because of you, American Bible Society is continuing more than two centuries of ministry to our nation's bravest heroes. Thank you for ensuring that those serving on the front lines have the lifeline of God's Word! ■



You bless veterans with God's Word, reminding them that they are never alone and encouraging them in every season of service.

PHOTO CREDITS: Armed Services Ministry

Send the lifeline of the Bible to our front-line heroes: **Give.Bible/Military**

SEE WHERE YOUR GIFT CHANGED LIVES THIS YEAR!

From churches to classrooms to war zones, you delivered God’s Word around the world



Journey of a Military Wife helps spark deep conversations about faith, trust in God, and the Bible’s promises for military families. Through these Bible-centered resources, you come alongside American families serving our nation!

1 You Equipped Military Families with Scripture

Thanks to your steady support, tens of thousands of women across the country who have enlisted alongside their spouses are being equipped to walk faithfully with the Lord. Lifelong Army wife Brenda Pace provides biblical equipping in her four-book *Journey of a Military Wife* series, designed for the unique challenges of military life and delivered through your generosity. These books consistently make a profound difference for families serving our country. One user told us, “**They stir up deep thinking about my Christian walk and my relationship with God and my husband. I totally recommend all military wives read them!**”

2 You Reached Students in Tanzania with God’s Word

Your support is equipping schools in Tanzania with audio and print Bibles and helping students flourish! Through End-to-End, young people can encounter Jesus and build their lives on the wisdom of God’s Word.

More than 4,000 schools have already adopted the End-to-End program, and more than 500,000 people in Tanzania alone attended Bible listening groups last year through this initiative. Praise God!



Students in Tanzania are experiencing God’s Word through audio Bibles, thanks to supporters like you.

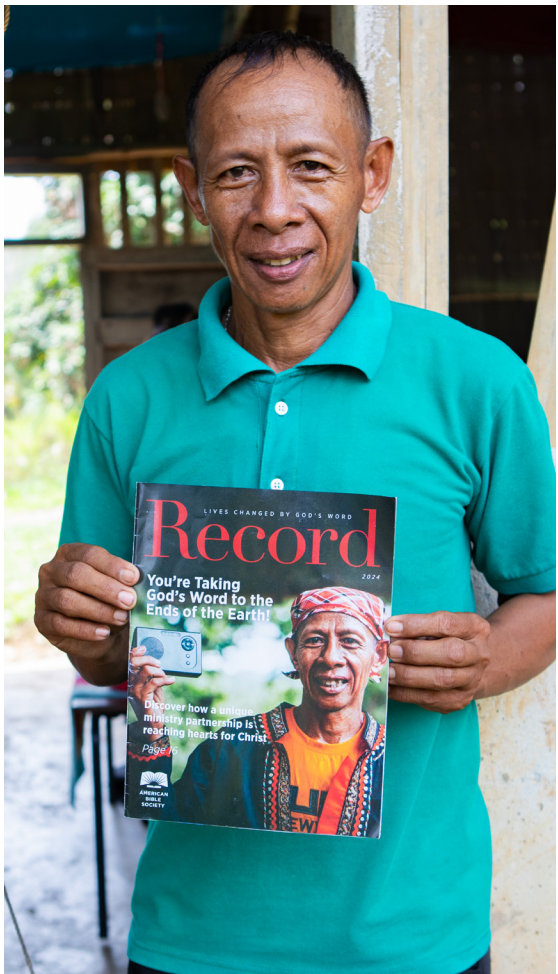
3 You Continued God’s Work in the Philippines

This year, our American Bible Society team got to visit the Philippine Bible Society and see firsthand the ministry you make possible!

Through End-to-End, trauma healing, and Bible distribution, you are reaching communities with the love of Christ—and people are responding. **Our team had the unforgettable privilege to attend gospel film showings and witness dozens of people stand up to give their lives to Jesus!**

We can’t express how powerful it was to see God work through your generosity, reaching hearts and changing lives with the Good News of his Son.

Everywhere we went, people wanted to say thank you for your ongoing prayer and support. You can meet some of your brothers and sisters in Christ in this video, created with you in mind.



You might remember seeing this pastor on the cover of last year’s *Record* magazine! Thanks to you, he’s continuing his ministry in the Philippines.



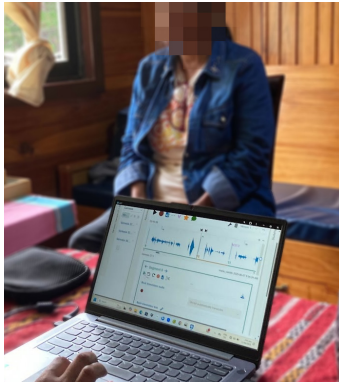
Watch now:
ABS.Bible/Philippines

4

You Helped People Who Waited Years for the Bible Hear and See God’s Word!

You’re enabling Bible translators to bring God’s Word to life through the Audio Video Translation Tool (AVTT). Even in remote areas, teams can record, translate, and collaboratively check Scripture in their own languages and access notes, maps, and illustrations that make the process faster and more accurate.

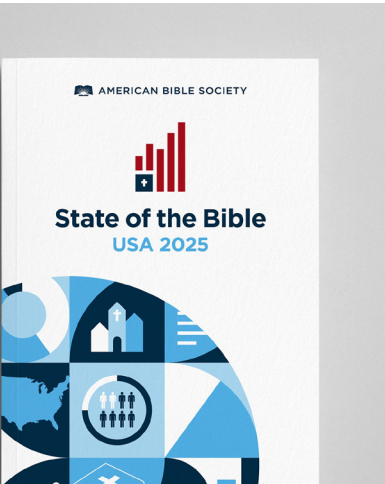
Right now, AVTT is being used in 250 projects across 28 countries, including Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Kenya. It’s removing barriers that once slowed translation work and enabling oral-preference cultures to connect with and share Scripture. Because of you, many unreached people are experiencing the life-changing message of the Bible for the very first time!



You helped translators deliver God’s Word faster than before through the AVTT!

5

You Empowered Ministry Leaders with Bible Insights



Every year, we conduct the *State of the Bible* survey to learn about Americans’ attitudes toward and interactions with the Bible. In 2025, we saw an encouraging increase in Bible use, especially among men and millennials. **Because of supporters like you, our relevant findings are helping thousands of ministry leaders across the country guide their people in experiencing God’s Word!** One leader told us, “We have used the *State of the Bible* to educate and inform our partners of the desperate need for more Bible engagement.” You can download the *State of the Bible* report for free and even share it with your pastor at StateoftheBible.org.

6

You Brought Peace and Strength to Hurting Hearts in Ukraine

People in Ukraine are finding hope amid the destruction and trauma of war because of you. Viktoria Raychinets, the director of the Trauma Healing Institute in Ukraine, sees this program as a critical way to care for the hurting hearts of her people. **“The dream is to have a relief center in every city of Ukraine, where people can come and get rest. . . . In these centers, every category of wounded heart would find peace and love and hope,”** she says. By working with partners in Ukraine and beyond, we’re continuing to develop resources to help people through times of deep suffering. Thank you for providing the hope of Jesus where it is desperately needed!



Viktoria visited us this year to collaborate on trauma healing ministry!

PHOTO CREDITS: Han Chung and William Tyas, American Bible Society / Taylor Fedena, American Bible Society

Send God’s Word where needed most: **[Give.Bible/GodsWord](https://GiveBible/GodsWord)**

IN MEMORIAM

“We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14

In memory of my father Ron Bly Given by Sheila Jean Bly	In memory of my husband Rev. Bobby Jones Given by Mrs. Grace Jones	In memory of Joann Powers Given by Steven Wicks
In memory of my friend Luke Daniels Given by Elselore Pretzler	In memory of our parents David and Bettie Knisley Given by Mark and Elsilynn Barber	In memory of Wilson Reyes Given by Juan Reyes
In memory of William and Nadine Davies Given by Elliot Saba	In memory of my husband Kenneth “Ken” Mills Given by Peggy Mills	In memory of my husband Dale E. Salisbury Given by Mrs. Teresa M. Salisbury
In memory of Margaret Douglass Given by Peter Douglass	In memory of Robert Mitchell Jr. Given by Dr. Valla L. Mitchell	In memory of my wife Glenda H. Windham Given by Andy Windham
In memory of my wife and daughter June and Kim Handwerker Given by Bob Handwerker	In memory of Beatriz De Rengifo Montana Given by Dr. Betty Uribe	In memory of my husband Mr. Thomas Wise Given by Mrs. Carole L. Wise
In memory of John S. Huggins Given by Dr. & Mrs. H. Sidney Huggins III	In memory of Dorothy Petrick Given by Randy R. Petrick	In memory of my family members Herbert, Rosie, Renee, and Montie Gladen/Reardon Given by Diana Gladen

You can honor the memory of a loved one by providing Bibles to people who don’t yet have them. Memorials of \$500 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in *Record*.

For further details about the memorial process, please contact our Partner Care team at:
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Houses of Healing

You're helping churchgoers and church
leaders alike encounter true healing in Jesus

BY ELISABETH TREFSGAR
PHOTOS BY TAYLOR FEDENA

One ordinary Sunday, you sit in the church pew, listening to your pastor preach.

The open Bible on your lap feels more like a weight than a lifeline. You can't seem to focus on the words, and you can't catch a glimpse of the hope you're supposed to find in its pages. Instead, your heart is heavy with pain.

You can't see it, but the pews are full of other people who are hurting too. The causes vary: a tragic loss, a long-term addiction, a heartbreaking family conflict. But the symptoms are the same.

In your suffering, you all feel far away from the people around you—and even farther away from God.

Now, imagine what this congregation looks like from the pulpit.

Your pastor knows that some people in the pews are hurting, and suspects that many more—like you, perhaps—are suffering in silence. But how can the church help?

Today, many Christian leaders feel poorly equipped to minister to people in their pain. That's especially true in the United States, where churches tend to emphasize the Bible's most hopeful and positive messages. But when people can't hear a message of hope through the noise of their pain, it's a daunting task to help them grow in faith.

And with many church leaders shouldering heavy burdens of physical, emotional, and spiritual burnout, the mission of helping others heal can sometimes feel impossible.

That’s what you’re helping to change—church by church, across the United States. Through our Restoring Hope ministry, you’re equipping the church to respond to people’s pain with hope grounded in God’s Word.

Finding Christ in the Middle of Pain

The need is real.

Approximately 60 million Americans attend a church on any given Sunday. That number spans ages, cultural backgrounds, races, and denominations. It represents small-town churches with faithful congregations of dozens and large churches that welcome thousands each week.

But according to church partners we visited this year, there’s one thing that



Restoring Hope equips churches with Bible-based resources that help people bring their pain to Jesus in a small group community.

all these 60 million Americans bring to church: their pain.

“Not everyone has a trauma due to some atrocity that life brings, but everyone sitting in the pew has experienced pain,” says Pastor Kim Gegner of New Hope Ministries in Roslyn, PA. “From the youngest children to the oldest person in the pew, that’s our universal. That’s what brings us all together.”

Whether life-changing trauma or everyday stress, emotional suffering is a matter of spiritual concern. And if pain is compounded by stigma or seen as something that should be left at the church door, people often keep their pain to themselves—even when they’re seasoned church leaders.

“All of my life, I’ve been in Christian circles,” says Pastor Kim. “But I was never taught that the church could heal.”

Over time, the burdens we carry can keep us from growing closer to God or finding community in the church.

“Unresolved pain will hold anyone back,” says Pastor Reina Olmeda of Transformation Church in Allentown, PA. “You can’t clearly see the love of God. You can’t receive a sermon of hope. It’s very difficult to hear what’s coming from the pulpit when there is this barrier of pain.”

The Bible is full of stories that reflect this reality. In Exodus, the Israelites are so broken by generations of slavery that they cannot hear God’s promise of deliverance from Moses (Exodus 6:9).

While Job remains faithful amid his grief, his lament includes vivid images of being attacked and abandoned by God (Job 16).

“All of my life, I’ve been in Christian circles. But I was never taught that the church could heal.”



In a healing group, people explore what God’s Word says about their pain. This process often helps them share about their suffering, opening the door for restoration and resilience through Christ.

In Psalm 22, David asks why he has been forsaken by God and describes how his pain affects him physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And in his agony on the cross, Jesus echoes David’s words: “My God, my God, why did you abandon me?” (Matthew 27:46).

“We have a suffering Savior—a Savior who experienced our pain,” says Pastor Steve Brubaker of Grace Community Church in Willow Street, PA. “If my job as a pastor is strictly to alleviate pain, I’m on the wrong track. I want to be able to find Christ in the middle of pain, and then encourage others that you can live through this and even grow closer to the Lord.”

Our Savior’s suffering is the reason healing is possible. He knows our hearts and carries our burdens. And through him, we have the promise of present comfort and future glory.

When we’re in the middle of suffering, this is the message we need.

Bearing One Another’s Burdens

Restoring Hope aims to equip every Christian leader in the United States to proclaim this message of hope to everyone whose heart is heavy.

The idea is that, with the right pastoral tools, every church can become a safe place for people to bring their pain to Jesus in all the challenging seasons of life—from disaster and trauma to everyday stress, worry, anger, or sadness.

This ministry expands on the proven methods of American Bible Society’s Trauma Healing Institute (THI), which has helped people heal from trauma and recover from disaster in 153 countries worldwide.

Developed and refined over 25 years, the THI approach combines mental health practices with the wisdom of Scripture to help people and communities thrive.

“We know that our Bible-based method is effective,” says Rebecca Taguma, Senior Director of THI and Restoring Hope at American Bible Society. “And not just in times of crisis, but in all of life’s challenging seasons. That’s why our ministry is expanding beyond acute trauma to help people with all kinds of pain and hurt. Our role is to help your church become a place where people can flourish, grow, and meet Jesus in new and transformative ways.”

Church leaders who have tried it say the program is already making a difference. “The Restoring Hope program itself is very simple, but it’s based on a lot of profound thinking around the issue of pain and suffering,” Pastor Steve says. “It’s biblically based, but it’s counseling astute, and they’ve integrated those two things very well. We’ve never come across a program like this.”

At the heart of this ministry are small group Bible studies led by a trained facilitator that walk through the program together. It’s a format that’s familiar to most churches, but with proven tools to guide people through conversations about pain and suffering with the wisdom of Scripture. Each group travels through lessons that help them identify and voice their pain, bring their suffering to the cross, and move forward in the light and joy of Christ’s love.

Through Restoring Hope groups, churches become communities where people help bear each other’s burdens (Galatians 6:2).

“When you’re in pain, the tendency is to withdraw physically, emotionally, and even to move away from God,” says Pastor Reina. “When people are in

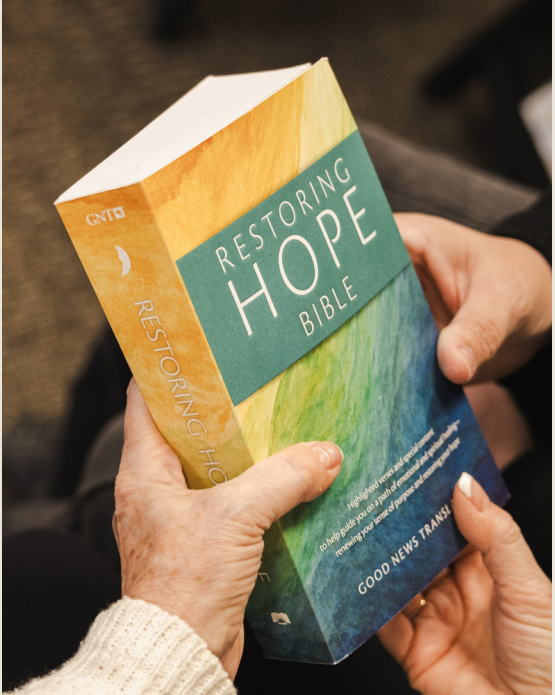
pain, they need a sense of community. Through the groups, they receive that. Through the groups, they realize, ‘I am not alone in my struggle. . . .’ The groups, to me, are one of the best resources that we have offered our church.”

“It’s Miraculous”

What’s it like to walk through a healing group journey?

At first, church leaders say, you might be apprehensive or confused about what to expect. Pastor Kim remembers leading a teen healing group for students struggling with drug abuse in the school connected with her church. For the first couple meetings, the teens didn’t want to talk at all.

This initial silence is common—along with other markers of pain, trauma, and isolation. Some people struggle to look others in the eye. Some feel the weight of cultural stigma against vulnerability and avoid showing any emotion. But as the group explores what God has to say about their suffering, something shifts.



As people walk through the Restoring Hope journey, they encounter God’s promises and find a safe space to share their pain with others. This process helps people move through suffering and experience hope for the future.

“You’re hearing a biblical story, which really connects you with people from the Bible and humanizes them,” says Pastor Reina. “It allows for you to step back and reflect and talk about how that resonates.”


As you hear these stories, you might start making connections of your own. People of different ages, life paths, and experiences begin sharing how they see their pain in the light of God’s Word. Many times, this opens the door for you to share, too.

It’s this process that helps people bring their burdens to Jesus and find a way to continue growing in the community the church provides. And while a typical Restoring Hope healing group only meets for six sessions, church leaders see healing and resilience that endures.

Pastor Kim watched the teens she led through the healing group become

more open as their journey progressed. Since then, the school hasn’t reported any new drug abuse. In addition, she’s seen young people in her church take ownership of their faith as they learn how the Bible connects to their lives.

“I think Restoring Hope is the best thing I’ve ever seen to help people understand why their faith is relevant,” she says. “It’s miraculous, and I put that directly to the healing groups and what they do.”



See the difference you made in these churches:

ABS.Bible/Hope



Restoring Hope is designed with your church in mind, making it simple to invite anyone on a journey of healing.

Pastor Steve remembers church members telling him that their pain felt less daunting after sharing their stories for the first time in a healing group. And Pastor Reina has seen how healing groups have changed the way people approach their role in the body of Christ.

“People may have walked in thinking, ‘I have too much hurt to be part of anything,’” she says. “After the group, they ask me, ‘How can I serve the church now?’ God’s Word restored something, and now the way they view life and their purpose and their effectiveness for the kingdom has completely changed. It’s God’s Word, restoring hope, moving them forward to the future. It’s powerful!”

“It Was Like Having New Eyes”

Restoring Hope is making a life-changing difference for people in the pews—but it’s for people in the pulpits, too.

Research shows that seven out of every ten U.S. church leaders are themselves bearing wounds of trauma. Beyond acute trauma, pastors report worse physical, mental, and emotional health than the American public overall, and significantly more suffering than other practicing Christians.

But pastors using Restoring Hope in their churches are realizing that their pain matters.

Pastor Steve remembers going through a church split that nearly broke him decades ago.

“It was the most painful thing I experienced, barring losing a family member,” he says. He lost friends, mentors, his job, and his sense of direction for the future. But he didn’t fully process his pain until his church piloted the Restoring Hope program. Participating in it changed everything.

“It was like having new eyes,” he says. “I didn’t realize how much I was being weighed down by not addressing this in my own life, this pain I was carrying.”

As church leaders heal, they’re better equipped to lead their congregations and become powerful ambassadors of Christ’s healing in their communities.

“It’s something that pastors have been clamoring for,” Pastor Reina says. “We want the resources; we want to talk about this.” With tools from Restoring Hope, now they can.



You’re helping churches thrive by blessing individual people with the tools they need to heal and grow in their relationship with Jesus. Thank you for being part of these stories of restoration!

You Are Comforting God’s People!

Through your support of American Bible Society, you’re fulfilling God’s command to “comfort my people” (Isaiah 40:1).

Restoring Hope is helping people in pain experience the healing, joy, and hope of Jesus through his Word. Now, church leaders see an opportunity to invite more people to meet the Savior who walks beside us in our suffering, every step of the way.

“If you’re in the process of healing, there’s a great sense of hope,” Pastor Reina says. “You see a church that is stronger, a church that is connected. A healthy church is a thriving church, and a thriving church is a growing church.” Imagine thriving, growing churches across our nation—full of people who have trusted Jesus and are sharing his message of love.

Because of you, we can continue to equip churches with Bible-based tools like Restoring Hope, and we look forward to seeing what God does with your life-giving gift. Thank you! 📖

Learn more about the ministry you make possible: [AmericanBible.org/Restoring Hope](https://AmericanBible.org/RestoringHope)

2026 Daily Bible Reading Guide

Thank you for blessing people in this magazine and beyond with God’s Word! We know that you give this gift because of what the Bible means in your own life. In 2026, will you join us on a journey through God’s Word using our Daily Bible Reading Guide, created especially for you? You can also find this free resource online at AmericanBible.org/DailyBible.

JANUARY 2026

Heeding Jesus’s Call

- ☐ **Day 1** Hebrews 1:1–14
- ☐ **Day 2** Hebrews 2:1–15
- ☐ **Day 3** Hebrews 3:1–19
- ☐ **Day 4** Hebrews 4:1–13
- ☐ **Day 5** Hebrews 4:14—5:10

Epiphany

- ☐ **Day 6** Matthew 2:1–12
- ☐ **Day 7** Matthew 2:13–23
- ☐ **Day 8** Matthew 3:10–17
- ☐ **Day 9** Matthew 4:1–11
- ☐ **Day 10** Matthew 4:12–25
- ☐ **Day 11** Matthew 8:1–17
- ☐ **Day 12** Matthew 9:18–34
- ☐ **Day 13** Matthew 12:22–32
- ☐ **Day 14** Matthew 14:1–21
- ☐ **Day 15** Matthew 14:22–36
- ☐ **Day 16** Matthew 15:1–20
- ☐ **Day 17** Matthew 15:21–39

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins;

Ecumenical Sunday

- ☐ **Day 18** Matthew 16:1–12
- ☐ **Day 19** Matthew 16:13–28
- ☐ **Day 20** Matthew 17:1–13
- ☐ **Day 21** Matthew 17:14–27
- ☐ **Day 22** Acts 3:1–10
- ☐ **Day 23** Acts 3:11–26
- ☐ **Day 24** Acts 4:1–22
- ☐ **Day 25** Acts 4:23—5:11
- ☐ **Day 26** Acts 9:1–19a

- ☐ **Day 27** Acts 9:19b–31
- ☐ **Day 28** Acts 9:32–42
- ☐ **Day 29** Acts 14:8–20
- ☐ **Day 30** Acts 16:1–15
- ☐ **Day 31** Acts 16:16–40

FEBRUARY 2026

Faith Active in Love

- ☐ **Day 32** Philippians 1:1–11
- ☐ **Day 33** Philippians 1:12–30
- ☐ **Day 34** Philippians 2:1–11
- ☐ **Day 35** Philippians 2:12–30
- ☐ **Day 36** Philippians 3:1–11
- ☐ **Day 37** Philippians 3:12–21
- ☐ **Day 38** Philippians 4:1–9
- ☐ **Day 39** Philippians 4:10–23
- ☐ **Day 40** Philemon 1–25
- ☐ **Day 41** Exodus 1:1–22
- ☐ **Day 42** Exodus 2:1–10
- ☐ **Day 43** Exodus 2:11–25
- ☐ **Day 44** Exodus 3:1–22
- ☐ **Day 45** Exodus 4:1–17
- ☐ **Day 46** Exodus 4:18–31
- ☐ **Day 47** Exodus 6:1–13
- ☐ **Day 48** Psalm 136

Ash Wednesday

- ☐ **Day 49** Psalm 51
- ☐ **Day 50** Exodus 13:17–22
- ☐ **Day 51** Exodus 14:1–18
- ☐ **Day 52** Exodus 14:19–31

First Sunday in Lent

- ☐ **Day 53** Exodus 15:1–18

Great Lent (Orthodox)

- ☐ **Day 54** Exodus 15:19–27
- ☐ **Day 55** Exodus 18:1–12
- ☐ **Day 56** Romans 8:18–39
- ☐ **Day 57** Romans 12:1–21
- ☐ **Day 58** Romans 14:1–23
- ☐ **Day 59** Romans 15:1–13

MARCH 2026

Turning to God in Prayer

Second Sunday in Lent

- ☐ **Day 60** Psalm 4
- ☐ **Day 61** Psalm 5
- ☐ **Day 62** Isaiah 37:1–20
- ☐ **Day 63** Isaiah 37:21–38
- ☐ **Day 64** Isaiah 38:1–20

World Day of Prayer

- ☐ **Day 65** Psalm 82
- ☐ **Day 66** Daniel 9:1–19

Third Sunday in Lent

- ☐ **Day 67** Jeremiah 16:14–21
- ☐ **Day 68** Jeremiah 32:1–15
- ☐ **Day 69** Jeremiah 32:16–35
- ☐ **Day 70** Jeremiah 32:36–44
- ☐ **Day 71** Habakkuk 1:1–17
- ☐ **Day 72** Habakkuk 2:1–20
- ☐ **Day 73** Habakkuk 3:1–19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- ☐ **Day 74** Numbers 14:1–10
- ☐ **Day 75** Numbers 14:11–25
- ☐ **Day 76** Numbers 21:4–20

- ☐ **Day 77** Deuteronomy 4:1–14
- ☐ **Day 78** Deuteronomy 5:1–22
- ☐ **Day 79** Deuteronomy 6:1–8
- ☐ **Day 80** Deuteronomy 7:1–11

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- ☐ **Day 81** 1 Samuel 1:1–18
- ☐ **Day 82** 1 Samuel 1:19–28
- ☐ **Day 83** 1 Samuel 2:1–11
- ☐ **Day 84** Psalm 25
- ☐ **Day 85** Psalm 27
- ☐ **Day 86** Psalm 31
- ☐ **Day 87** John 17:1–26

Palm/Passion Sunday

- ☐ **Day 88** Matthew 21:1–27
- ☐ **Day 89** Matthew 26:1–35
- ☐ **Day 90** Matthew 26:36–46

APRIL 2026

Rejoicing in Hope

- ☐ **Day 91** Matthew 26:47–75

Holy Thursday

- ☐ **Day 92** Matthew 27:1–26

Good Friday

- ☐ **Day 93** Matthew 27:27–56
- ☐ **Day 94** Matthew 27:57–66

Easter Sunday/Pascha

- ☐ **Day 95** Matthew 28:1–20
- ☐ **Day 96** Luke 24:13–25
- ☐ **Day 97** Luke 24:36–53
- ☐ **Day 98** Romans 1:1–17
- ☐ **Day 99** Romans 3:21–31
- ☐ **Day 100** Romans 4:1–12
- ☐ **Day 101** Romans 4:13–25

Pascha (Orthodox Easter)

- ☐ **Day 102** Romans 5:1–11
- ☐ **Day 103** Romans 5:12–21
- ☐ **Day 104** Romans 6:1–14
- ☐ **Day 105** Romans 6:15–23
- ☐ **Day 106** 1 Peter 1:1–12
- ☐ **Day 107** 1 Peter 1:13–25
- ☐ **Day 108** 1 Peter 2:1–10
- ☐ **Day 109** 1 Peter 2:11–25
- ☐ **Day 110** 1 Peter 3:1–22
- ☐ **Day 111** 1 Peter 4:1–19
- ☐ **Day 112** 1 Peter 5:1–13
- ☐ **Day 113** 2 Peter 1:1–21
- ☐ **Day 114** 2 Peter 2:1–22
- ☐ **Day 115** 2 Peter 3:1–18
- ☐ **Day 116** John 10:1–21
- ☐ **Day 117** John 10:22–41
- ☐ **Day 118** John 5:1–18
- ☐ **Day 119** John 5:19–29
- ☐ **Day 120** Isaiah 35:1–10

MAY 2026

Renewed by the Spirit

- ☐ **Day 121** Ezekiel 1:1—2:1
- ☐ **Day 122** Ezekiel 2:2—3:15
- ☐ **Day 123** Ezekiel 3:16–27
- ☐ **Day 124** Ezekiel 8:1–18
- ☐ **Day 125** Ezekiel 10:1–22
- ☐ **Day 126** Ezekiel 11:14–25

National Day of Prayer

- ☐ **Day 127** Ezekiel 36:1–15
- ☐ **Day 128** Ezekiel 36:16–38
- ☐ **Day 129** Exodus 37:1–29
- ☐ **Day 130** Ezekiel 43:1–12
- ☐ **Day 131** Ezekiel 43:13–27
- ☐ **Day 132** Ezekiel 47:1–12
- ☐ **Day 133** Psalm 47

Ascension Day

- ☐ **Day 134** Acts 1:1–11
- ☐ **Day 135** Acts 1:12–26
- ☐ **Day 136** Revelation 1:1–20
- ☐ **Day 137** Revelation 2:1–11
- ☐ **Day 138** Revelation 2:12–29
- ☐ **Day 139** Revelation 3:1–13
- ☐ **Day 140** Revelation 3:14–22
- ☐ **Day 141** Revelation 4:1–11
- ☐ **Day 142** Revelation 5:1–14
- ☐ **Day 143** Revelation 7:1–17

Pentecost

- ☐ **Day 144** Acts 2:1–13
- ☐ **Day 145** Acts 2:14–28
- ☐ **Day 146** Acts 2:29–47
- ☐ **Day 147** Acts 10:1–33
- ☐ **Day 148** Acts 10:34–48
- ☐ **Day 149** Acts 11:1–18
- ☐ **Day 150** Acts 11:19–30
- ☐ **Day 151** Romans 8:1–17

JUNE 2026

Guided by Faithful Witnesses

- ☐ **Day 152** Hebrews 11:1–20
- ☐ **Day 153** Hebrews 11:21–40
- ☐ **Day 154** Hebrews 12:1–11
- ☐ **Day 155** Hebrews 12:12–29
- ☐ **Day 156** Hebrews 13:1–25
- ☐ **Day 157** Deuteronomy 32:45–52
- ☐ **Day 158** Deuteronomy 34:1–12
- ☐ **Day 159** Joshua 1:1–18
- ☐ **Day 160** Joshua 23:1–16
- ☐ **Day 161** Joshua 24:1–28
- ☐ **Day 162** Joshua 24:29–33
- ☐ **Day 163** Judges 3:12–31
- ☐ **Day 164** Judges 4:1–24
- ☐ **Day 165** Judges 5:1–31
- ☐ **Day 166** Judges 6:1–27
- ☐ **Day 167** Judges 6:28–40
- ☐ **Day 168** Judges 7:1–25
- ☐ **Day 169** Judges 13:1–25
- ☐ **Day 170** Judges 15:9–20

- ☐ **Day 171** Judges 16:4–22
- ☐ **Day 172** Judges 16:23–31
- ☐ **Day 173** Ezra 1:1–11
- ☐ **Day 174** Ezra 3:1–13
- ☐ **Day 175** Ezra 4:1–5
- ☐ **Day 176** Ezra 4:24—5:17
- ☐ **Day 177** Ezra 6:1–12
- ☐ **Day 178** Ezra 6:13–22
- ☐ **Day 179** Ezra 7:1–10
- ☐ **Day 180** Ezra 7:11–28
- ☐ **Day 181** Ezra 8:15–23

JULY 2026

Proclaiming God’s Justice

- ☐ **Day 182** Psalm 9
- ☐ **Day 183** Psalm 10
- ☐ **Day 184** Psalm 15
- ☐ **Day 185** Psalm 33
- ☐ **Day 186** Exodus 23:1–13
- ☐ **Day 187** Leviticus 19:1–18
- ☐ **Day 188** Leviticus 19:32–37
- ☐ **Day 189** Deuteronomy 1:9–19
- ☐ **Day 190** Deuteronomy 10:12–22
- ☐ **Day 191** Deuteronomy 15:1–11
- ☐ **Day 192** Psalm 68
- ☐ **Day 193** Psalm 72
- ☐ **Day 194** Psalm 75
- ☐ **Day 195** Psalm 85
- ☐ **Day 196** 1 Kings 17:1–24
- ☐ **Day 197** 1 Kings 18:1–24
- ☐ **Day 198** 1 Kings 18:25–40
- ☐ **Day 199** 1 Kings 18:41–46
- ☐ **Day 200** 1 Kings 19:1–21
- ☐ **Day 201** 2 Kings 5:1–19a
- ☐ **Day 202** 2 Kings 5:19b–27
- ☐ **Day 203** 2 Chronicles 34:1–7
- ☐ **Day 204** 2 Chronicles 34:8–28
- ☐ **Day 205** 2 Chronicles 34:29–33
- ☐ **Day 206** Isaiah 2:1–5
- ☐ **Day 207** Isaiah 55:1–13
- ☐ **Day 208** Isaiah 56:1:1–12
- ☐ **Day 209** Isaiah 58:1–14
- ☐ **Day 210** Isaiah 59:1–21
- ☐ **Day 211** Jeremiah 3:6–18
- ☐ **Day 212** Jeremiah 7:1–15

AUGUST 2026

Trusting in God’s Mercy and Providence

- ☐ **Day 213** Nehemiah 1:1–11
- ☐ **Day 214** Nehemiah 2:1–20
- ☐ **Day 215** Nehemiah 4:1–23
- ☐ **Day 216** Nehemiah 5:1–13
- ☐ **Day 217** Nehemiah 5:14–19
- ☐ **Day 218** Nehemiah 8:1–12
- ☐ **Day 219** Nehemiah 8:13–18
- ☐ **Day 220** Nehemiah 9:1–5
- ☐ **Day 221** Nehemiah 9:6–14
- ☐ **Day 222** Nehemiah 9:15–25
- ☐ **Day 223** Nehemiah 9:26–38
- ☐ **Day 224** Nehemiah 12:27–43

- ☐ **Day 225** Nehemiah 12:44–47
- ☐ **Day 226** Job 1:1–12
- ☐ **Day 227** Job 1:13–22
- ☐ **Day 228** Job 2:1–13
- ☐ **Day 229** Job 19:13–27a
- ☐ **Day 230** Job 32:1–10
- ☐ **Day 231** Job 35:1–16
- ☐ **Day 232** Job 36:5–26
- ☐ **Day 233** Job 38:1–18
- ☐ **Day 234** Job 40:1–24
- ☐ **Day 235** Job 42:1–17
- ☐ **Day 236** Leviticus 16:1–19
- ☐ **Day 237** Leviticus 16:20–34
- ☐ **Day 238** Isaiah 40:1–31
- ☐ **Day 239** Isaiah 43:1–21
- ☐ **Day 240** Lamentations 3:1–17
- ☐ **Day 241** Haggai 1:1–15
- ☐ **Day 242** Haggai 2:1–23
- ☐ **Day 243** Zechariah 1:1–17

SEPTEMBER 2026

Growing in God’s Wisdom

- ☐ **Day 244** Matthew 5:1–12
- ☐ **Day 245** Matthew 5:13–26
- ☐ **Day 246** Matthew 5:33–48
- ☐ **Day 247** Matthew 6:1–15
- ☐ **Day 248** Matthew 6:16–23
- ☐ **Day 249** Matthew 6:24–34
- ☐ **Day 250** Matthew 7:1–12
- ☐ **Day 251** Matthew 7:13–29
- ☐ **Day 252** Matthew 13:1–23
- ☐ **Day 253** Matthew 13:24–43
- ☐ **Day 254** Matthew 13:44–58
- ☐ **Day 255** Matthew 25:1–13
- ☐ **Day 256** Matthew 25:14–30
- ☐ **Day 257** Matthew 25:31–46
- ☐ **Day 258** Proverbs 1:1–33
- ☐ **Day 259** Proverbs 3:1–35
- ☐ **Day 260** Proverbs 4:1–27
- ☐ **Day 261** Proverbs 8:1–36
- ☐ **Day 262** Proverbs 9:1–18
- ☐ **Day 263** Proverbs 10:1–32
- ☐ **Day 264** Ecclesiastes 3:1–15
- ☐ **Day 265** Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:16
- ☐ **Day 266** Ecclesiastes 5:1–20
- ☐ **Day 267** Ecclesiastes 7:1–25
- ☐ **Day 268** Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:14
- ☐ **Day 269** Psalm 37
- ☐ **Day 270** 1 Corinthians 1:1–17
- ☐ **Day 271** 1 Corinthians 1:18–31
- ☐ **Day 272** 1 Corinthians 2:1–16
- ☐ **Day 273** 1 Corinthians 3:1–23

OCTOBER 2026

Putting Faith into Action

- ☐ **Day 274** Daniel 1:1–21
- ☐ **Day 275** Daniel 2:1–13
- ☐ **Day 276** Daniel 2:14–23

World Communion Sunday

- ☐ **Day 277** Daniel 2:24–49

- ☐ **Day 278** Daniel 3:1–18
- ☐ **Day 279** Daniel 3:19–30
- ☐ **Day 280** Daniel 4:1–18
- ☐ **Day 281** Daniel 4:19–33
- ☐ **Day 282** Daniel 4:34–37
- ☐ **Day 283** Daniel 5:1–12
- ☐ **Day 284** Daniel 5:13–31
- ☐ **Day 285** Daniel 6:1–10
- ☐ **Day 286** Daniel 6:11–28
- ☐ **Day 287** Esther 2:1–23
- ☐ **Day 288** Esther 3:1–15
- ☐ **Day 289** Esther 4:1–17
- ☐ **Day 290** Esther 5:1–14
- ☐ **Day 291** Esther 6:1–13
- ☐ **Day 292** Esther 6:14—7:10
- ☐ **Day 293** Esther 8:1–17
- ☐ **Day 294** Esther 9:1–19
- ☐ **Day 295** Esther 9:20—10:3
- ☐ **Day 296** Ruth 1:1–22
- ☐ **Day 297** Ruth 2:1–23
- ☐ **Day 298** Ruth 3:1–18
- ☐ **Day 299** Ruth 4:1–22
- ☐ **Day 300** James 1:1–27
- ☐ **Day 301** James 2:1–26
- ☐ **Day 302** James 3:1–18
- ☐ **Day 303** James 4:1–17
- ☐ **Day 304** James 5:1–20

NOVEMBER 2026

Offering God Thanks and Praise

- ☐ **Day 305** 1 Chronicles 13:1–14
- ☐ **Day 306** 1 Chronicles 15:1–24
- ☐ **Day 307** 1 Chronicles 15:25—16:7
- ☐ **Day 308** 1 Chronicles 16:8–43
- ☐ **Day 309** 1 Chronicles 17:1–15
- ☐ **Day 310** 1 Chronicles 17:16–27
- ☐ **Day 311** 1 Chronicles 22:1–19
- ☐ **Day 312** 1 Chronicles 28:1–21
- ☐ **Day 313** 1 Chronicles 29:1–9
- ☐ **Day 314** 1 Chronicles 29:10–30
- ☐ **Day 315** Psalm 89:1–18
- ☐ **Day 316** Psalm 89:19–37
- ☐ **Day 317** Psalm 92
- ☐ **Day 318** Psalm 93
- ☐ **Day 319** Psalm 95
- ☐ **Day 320** Psalm 96
- ☐ **Day 321** Psalm 97
- ☐ **Day 322** Psalm 98
- ☐ **Day 323** Psalm 99
- ☐ **Day 324** Psalm 100
- ☐ **Day 325** Psalm 103
- ☐ **Day 326** Psalm 104
- ☐ **Day 327** Psalm 111
- ☐ **Day 328** Psalm 113
- ☐ **Day 329** Jeremiah 10:1–16

Thanksgiving Day

- ☐ **Day 330** Psalm 65
- ☐ **Day 331** Psalm 66
- ☐ **Day 332** Psalm 67

First Sunday of Advent

- ☐ **Day 333** Mark 13:1–13
- ☐ **Day 334** Mark 13:24–37

DECEMBER 2026

Sharing the Joy of the Lord

- ☐ **Day 335** Psalm 24
- ☐ **Day 336** Daniel 12:1–13
- ☐ **Day 337** Malachi 1:1–14
- ☐ **Day 338** Malachi 2:1–16
- ☐ **Day 339** Malachi 2:17—3:5

Second Sunday of Advent

- ☐ **Day 340** Malachi 3:6–18
- ☐ **Day 341** Malachi 4:1–6
- ☐ **Day 342** Isaiah 60:1–22
- ☐ **Day 343** Isaiah 61:1–11
- ☐ **Day 344** Isaiah 62:1–12
- ☐ **Day 345** Isaiah 63:1–14
- ☐ **Day 346** Isaiah 63:15—64:12

Third Sunday of Advent

- ☐ **Day 347** Isaiah 66:1–11
- ☐ **Day 348** Isaiah 66:12–24
- ☐ **Day 349** Isaiah 49:8–23
- ☐ **Day 350** Isaiah 51:1–16
- ☐ **Day 351** Isaiah 52:1–12
- ☐ **Day 352** Isaiah 7:1–25
- ☐ **Day 353** Isaiah 8:1–15

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- ☐ **Day 354** Isaiah 8:16—9:7
- ☐ **Day 355** Luke 1:1–25
- ☐ **Day 356** Luke 1:26–56
- ☐ **Day 357** Luke 1:57–80
- ☐ **Day 358** Luke 2:1–21

Christmas Day

- ☐ **Day 359** John 1:1–18
- ☐ **Day 360** John 1:19–34
- ☐ **Day 361** John 1:35–51
- ☐ **Day 362** Luke 2:22–52
- ☐ **Day 363** Revelation 19:1–10
- ☐ **Day 364** Revelation 21:1–17
- ☐ **Day 365** Revelation 22:1–21

Give Thanks to the Lord—Yesterday, Today, and Forever!

“Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good; his love is eternal.”

PSALM 136:1

This year, you answered prayers through your gift of the Bible.

As you read through this magazine full of smiling faces and grateful hearts, we hope that you take a moment to reflect on God’s blessings in your own life. Use this brief reflection to meditate on God’s goodness to you in the past, present, and future!

Thank God for past blessings.

“Remember that the LORD your God is the only God and that he is faithful. He will keep his covenant and show his constant love to a thousand generations of those who love him and obey his commands.”

—DEUTERONOMY 7:9

God promises to always be faithful to us. Take time to look back and identify past blessings. How has God answered your prayers? How has he protected you and provided for you? Where do you see evidence of his love for you?

Spend a few minutes thinking about how God has been faithful to you, and thank him for the blessings he has given you in the past.

Thank God for present blessings.

“The LORD’s unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise.”

—LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

God promises to be good to us. Each day, we can count God’s blessings. Sunlight in the morning.

Words of encouragement from a friend. A song that speaks to your soul. A scene of trees in the middle of their annual fall costume change. A verse of Scripture that comes to mind just when you need it. God loves us enough to show his care for us in the seemingly mundane moments of our daily lives.

Spend a few minutes thinking about how God has shown his goodness to you today, and thank him for this evidence of his love for you.

Thank God for future blessings.

“Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away.”

—1 PETER 1:3–4

God promises us a future full of hope. Even when we experience uncertainty, sorrow, or fear, we can always look forward to a future built on this promise. In Jesus Christ, our future is secure. This fills us with eternal hope and gives us a reason for thankfulness!

Spend a few minutes thinking about how God’s promises to you mean that your future is secure, and thank him for the way he gives you hope through his Word. 📖

A Journey of Transformation



How Mark and Nancy Hanson are driving transformation through End-to-End

Mark Hanson stood in a classroom in Kenya, facing 30 young students in matching uniforms.

“How many of you have Bibles?” he asked.

Only three children raised their hands.

“How many of you would like Bibles?”

Every hand went up.

Years later, Mark still remembers this as a turning point in his understanding of the vast need for God’s Word around the world and how he could help. Together with his wife, Nancy, Mark is a faithful supporter of our End-to-End program and a passionate advocate of how God’s Word transforms lives—including his own.

A Vehicle for Change

Growing up in a Christian family, Mark always knew who Jesus was. He went

to church. He had good values. And he worked hard to help build his father’s auto parts business. When his father sold the business after a cancer diagnosis, Mark began working for Sea Foam Sales Company, which he eventually purchased. The next 15 years were a whirlwind of product demonstrations at warehouses and auto parts stores as he focused on expanding the business.

“I was on the road a lot,” Mark remembers. “I’d be gone for two weeks straight, come back, straighten out everything at the office, and then hit the road for another two weeks.”

The company grew quickly, and Mark began to realize that Sea Foam’s success could make a difference for others.

“We started giving half our profits away,” he says. “Transformation became a theme of what we supported, because people change when Jesus gets into their life. And Sea Foam became the vehicle for that change.”

Each year, Mark would invest in Christ-centered ministries, including prison outreaches and rehabilitation programs. The better the business did, the more he had to give away.

Then, in 2004, a difficult divorce upended Mark’s life.

“It was brutal,” he remembers. “When you’re in the middle of darkness, you can’t see the other side. It was just nothing but despair.”

As he began the long process of healing, Mark surrounded himself with support. He joined a Bible study group and searched for comfort and strength in God’s Word. The same good news he’d shared with others became a solid foundation for his faith, even

when everything else seemed to be falling apart.

“I often relate to the book of Job because Job goes through really good times, and then he goes through his really hard patch,” Mark says. In his own hard patch, Mark saw his relationship with Jesus grow more real than ever before.

“What I can tell you is that when you go through dark times, there is another side to the story,” he says. “Today, I am in a place where I’m far better off than I ever would’ve been. Some place along the way, I found a closer relationship with Jesus.”



End-to-End creates a way for people around the world to encounter God and receive a Bible of their own.

“A Full-Circle Transformation”

Around this time, Mark received a call from Jim Sheldrew, a philanthropic advisor at American Bible Society. He asked Mark if he’d like to come to Peru and see what God was doing

among the Quechuan people. What Mark witnessed was the earliest stages of End-to-End—a ministry partnership that combines visual, audio, and written Scripture to disciple unreached people, plant churches, and change communities through the power of the gospel.

“The Quechuans had the Bible in Spanish, but until it came in their heart language, they didn’t understand it,” Mark says. “When Jesus came in their language, it transformed them.”

Eager to see more, Mark traveled to Rwanda, where people were using the Bible to build bridges of reconciliation

after the devastating genocide a decade prior. He remembers sitting among a crowd watching gospel films about the life of Christ.

“It was the first time they’d seen a film in their own language,” he says. “They were happy as Jesus went through his life—he’s doing miracles, he’s amazing! But then he ends up on the cross. People were in tears. How could the Savior of the world end up on the cross?”

By the end of the film, people were eager to hear more about this Jesus who laid down his life for his enemies.

“We’d say, ‘If you want to learn more about Jesus, come back tomorrow,’” Mark says. “And every week they came back to listen to the Bible. And those listening groups began to grow.”

Finally, on a trip to Kenya, Mark saw the last piece of the puzzle: a personal

“End-to-End is a full-circle transformation, from first encounter with Jesus to having your own Bible to life changes that impact your community.”



Audio Bibles like this one make it easy to spread the gospel quickly, ensuring that everyone can hear and understand the message of Jesus!

Bible. Most of the students he met couldn’t afford a Bible. End-to-End offered a journey that every person could take to receive God’s Word—no matter where they lived, how much money they had, or what language they spoke. He saw people move from curious onlookers to passionate followers of Jesus Christ, ready to carry the good news to their communities.

“End-to-End is a full-circle transformation, from first encounter with Jesus to having your own Bible to life changes that impact your community,” Mark says. “It’s powerful!”

Mark became one of End-to-End’s earliest supporters. When he met his wife Nancy 15 years ago, he found someone who shares his heart for changing lives through the gospel. Together, they helped convene ministries they loved for the greater purpose of reaching more people through End-to-End.

As the gospel spread through the program, Mark saw the difference it made in communities. Common issues like alcoholism decreased dramatically. Families became more unified. Enemies reconciled. Churches were planted.



Watch Mark tell his story:
[ABS.Bible/WhyWeGive](https://www.abs.bible/WhyWeGive)



Mark Hanson remembers how powerful it was to see people experience a gospel film in their own language. Through End-to-End, communities can move from encountering Jesus for the first time to receiving their own Bibles and becoming part of a local church.

PHOTO CREDITS: Taylor Fedena, American Bible Society

“As people changed, things in their villages began to change, too,” Mark says. “Spiritual transformation really does impact a person’s life here on earth. It doesn’t solve all their problems. It didn’t solve all of my problems! But it certainly helped change my point of view.”

“An Amazing Journey”

The Bible shaped the way Mark ran his business. It helped him through the most difficult years of his life. Today, he and Nancy are continuing to share this most precious gift through End-to-End, which has expanded to serve people in 71 nations!

“We’ve developed an understanding that we give second chances at Sea Foam,” Mark says. “We give second chances to engines and equipment

so that we can give second chances to people.”

Looking back, Mark sees how God used his own story of transformation and his role as a business owner to build the Kingdom.

“I sell Sea Foam for a living. That’s all I do,” Mark says. “But through that, we can provide funds to get the gospel out.”

Like you, Mark and Nancy find their greatest joy in knowing that the transformation they see will last for eternity.

“I’ve been able to see literally thousands and thousands of people transformed through finding Jesus. It has been an amazing journey,” Mark says. “But to know that not only do you find Jesus in your lifetime and your life today gets better—but the bonus of eternal life? That’s a pretty amazing end of your story.”

End-to-End in 2024



Why This Supporter Calls Charitable Gift Annuities a “Godsend.”



When Nancy Moore Simpson moved from Tennessee to New York City to pursue a singing career, she didn’t expect her future to be shaped by generosity as much as music. Her journey led her to American Bible Society in 1992, where she discovered her love for nonprofit work.

“It spurred me into learning about fundraising, how nonprofits run, and how they support the wonderful mission they have in mind to do,” she remembers. “I was so excited to be working there. It was an inspiring and hopeful place to be.”

When it was time for Nancy and her husband, Bill, to revisit their retirement plan, Nancy discovered the power of charitable gift annuities. **It’s a simple agreement: you make a gift of \$5,000 or more to a trusted nonprofit like American Bible Society, and in return, you receive fixed payments for life. This reliable income in retirement transforms into an eternal legacy as your gift extends beyond your lifetime.**

“It was always wonderful because you’ve got an immediate write-off, which helps with tax purposes, and you can count on your annuity payments along with your other retirement income,” Nancy says. “Not having a pension, I made it a priority to save as much as I could, and I started doing annual \$10,000 annuities as my retirement plan.”

Years later, that decision proved lifesaving. After an accident, Nancy became Bill’s full-time caregiver for 16 years. Then, after his passing, Nancy’s faithful additions to her charitable gift annuities helped keep her retirement plan on track.

“The annuities have been a Godsend,” she says. “They’re fairly easy to do, and most organizations do most of the work for you. You’re able to reap the benefits along with the organization.”

Now, Nancy’s life is still marked by generosity. She sings regularly, teaches music lessons, and paints greeting cards to send to hospice facilities. And she’s thankful for the way her discovery of charitable gift annuities have allowed her to continue giving freely from what God has given to her.

Why Nancy Loves CGAs:

- “They’re fairly easy to do.”
- “ABS does most of the work for you.”
- “You reap the benefits!”

“I’ve made it a point to find really wonderful missions and causes I help support,” she says. “It’s truly a blessing to all!”

For Nancy, American Bible Society continues to be a cause close to her heart. From her years of employment to her charitable gift annuities to her eagerness to share this mission with others, she sees how her investments in the Bible cause today will continue for generations to come. Her message for others? **“You can make a difference, too!”**

Make an eternal difference with your own CGA—learn how by turning the page!



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