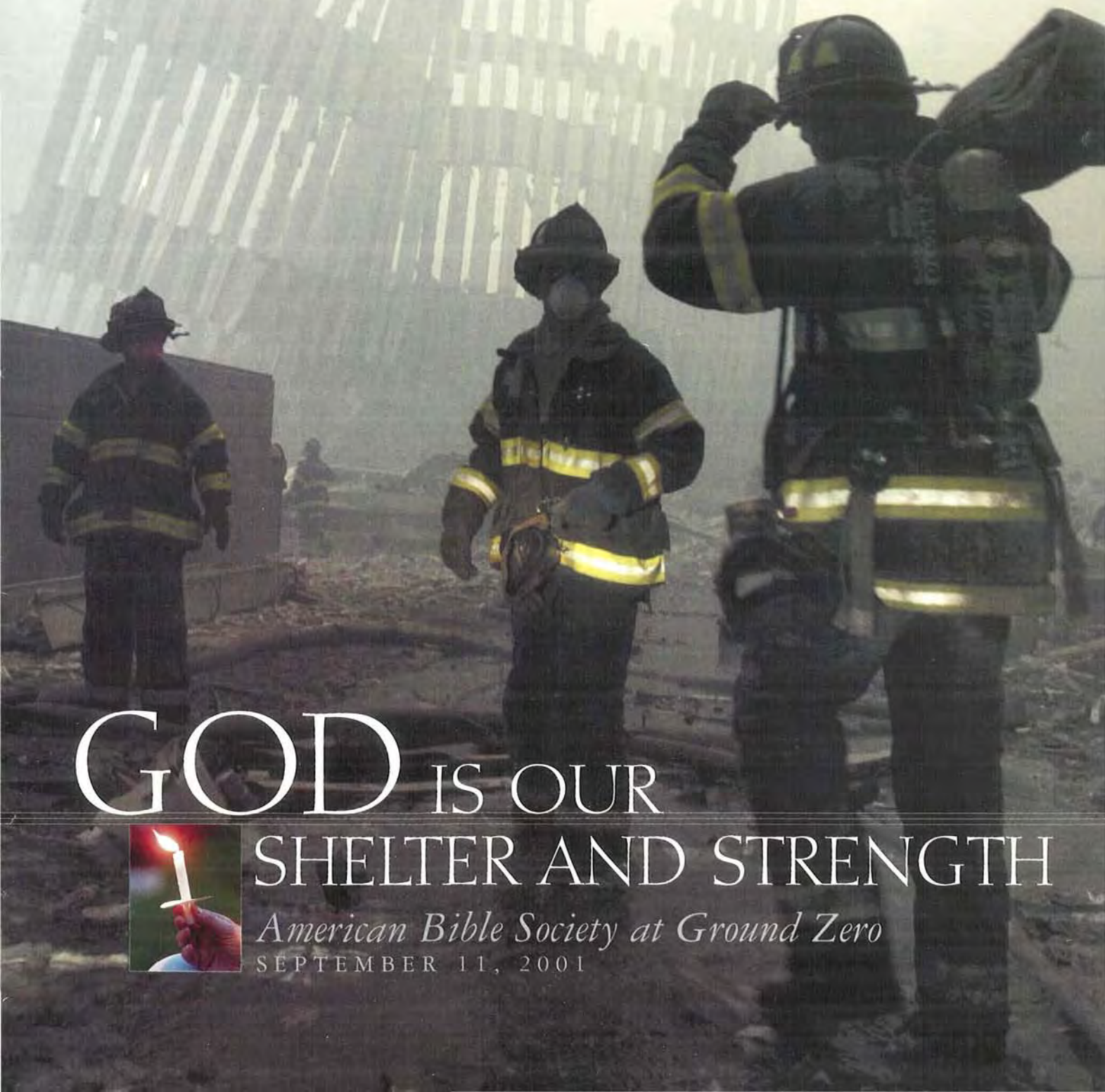


 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

# RECORD

October | November 2001



GOD IS OUR  
SHELTER AND STRENGTH



*American Bible Society at Ground Zero*

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



# On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand

*“We hope for something we have not yet seen,  
and we patiently wait for it.” —Romans 8.24 (CEV)*

**F**or a few moments on Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, death and destruction poured from the morning sky and a dark veil of evil overcame the light. Innocents were struck down by a blind hatred of unimaginable proportions. Emergency workers, police, and firemen all rushed to rescue the thousands caught in the two towering infernos. Among the more than 5,000 people missing, 343 were firemen.

How could this happen? As one we cry out, “Why God, why?” For those of us who believe in the God of love and mercy and goodness, it can be especially bewildering.

As one commentator said, “Yesterday’s seriousness seems today like so much fluffy cappuccino.” Style is suddenly out of fashion. Life has gotten more serious.

As the immensity of this disaster unfolded beneath the plumes of black smoke, the American Bible Society geared up to meet an anticipated need for hope and promise from God’s Word. We have given

away more than a million of the Scripture portion *God is Our Shelter and Strength* every way we know how — including full-page newspaper and magazine ads and as downloads from our Web sites.

In these Scriptures Portions, picturing firefighters on the scene at the World Trade Center, the Psalmists cry out to God for mercy, but also claim His promise of healing and hope for the future. In them St. Paul reminds us: “... that nothing can separate us from God’s love.” New Portions, one dealing with grief and one prepared especially for children, are also now available and downloadable from



EUGENE HABECKER



THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

ABS Web sites in English and Spanish.

The evening following the attack, my wife Marylou and I accompanied an ABS staff member desperately searching for her boyfriend; he had gone to the World Trade Center for a breakfast meeting. As we went from hospital to rescue center to hospital, checking lists of patients, we saw others searching for loved ones — holding photos of fathers, or sisters, or spouses — anxiously clinging to a fragile hope; grasping at stories of those once missing, but now found.

In a fleeting moment our national confidence had been shaken, our symbol of military might violated; the towering monuments to our inventive prosperity crumbled like so many cards into a heap of ashes — our innocence was lost, our vulnerability exposed. It was as if we, as a nation, awoke from a bucolic dream to confront a rising tide of fears and self-doubt — in whom and what do we trust? Who are we as a people? As C.S. Lewis wrote, we had to look to see what was in the basement.

Much of what we’ve found there is reassuring. We hold human life dear. Thousands rushed to help — to give blood, food, whatever they could. We value our freedom — including the freedom to be different. Freedom of choice—to believe or not believe — is a cor-



nerstone of our national credo; it also underlies our Christian idea of faith. God, in his Word, is unambiguous; the path to new life is a narrow one. Nevertheless, He leaves us to do the choosing.

From the Psalmist to the Apostle Paul, Scripture affirms there is evidence for faith everywhere. Yet Jesus also says the evidence is for those who have eyes to see — the message is for those who have ears to hear. Jesus — God-in-the-flesh — was never heavy-handed. For those whom others wanted him to condemn, he showed love and forgiveness. Sternness he saved for those who considered *themselves* righteous.

We have seen the hateful consequences of those who would wage “holy war.” What is holy gives life. Jesus summed up what is holy is love — love for God, ourselves, and each other. “The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them. And you are my friends if you obey me.” (John 15.12-14 CEV)

The rescuers that placed themselves in death’s path tying to save others made the ultimate affirmation of life, just as Jesus’ death showed that God considers each one of us worth dying for.

As we Americans have drawn together in a kinship of grief, the world community has come alongside us. Our despair is being shouldered by many. I have received dozens of letters from Bible Societies around the world expressing their solidarity with us. A colleague from a Bible Society in the Middle East wrote that their team met with tears and broken hearts — that he, “felt I am American, and all victims are my family ... God our father will walk with us in this valley.”

The refrain of the 23rd Psalm has served as a national requiem for hope — a spiritual anchor cast down by leaders including President George Bush and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. In re-evaluating what matters, Americans have flocked to churches, synagogues,

mosques, temples, and shrines. For many this sacred ground is a familiar haven. For others it has been a painful quest for something solid. But everywhere there is a new openness to nourish the soul.

On Thursday, Sept. 13, officers of the NYPD came to our offices at Bible House to pick up ten cases (1,200) of Scriptures for distribution among rescue workers at “ground zero.” I was invited to go along to deliver them personally. We passed through many checkpoints before arriving at the World Financial Center.

The devastation was surreal — the desire for Scriptures immediately evident. I gave out two pockets-full of Scriptures even before I’d gotten my face mask and

## HOW THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY IS RESPONDING

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington, the American Bible Society (ABS) moved quickly to offer consolation to a troubled nation.

ABS responded by:

- Distributing more than 1,000,000 Scriptures — with distribution continuing to Americans across the country. A Scripture Portion, illustrated with pictures of firefighters near the remnant shell of the World Trade Center, provides consolation and support.
- Thousands of copies of the Scripture Portions are distributed to rescue workers at the Ground Zero World Trade Center site.
- Prayer services for ABS personnel became a daily occurrence as New York staff recover from the attack’s aftermath.
- Advertisements offering the consolation of the Scriptures appear in national and local newspapers, including *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*.
- ABS staff members raise funds for the American Red Cross for the relief effort and sort clothes for rescue workers.
- Scripture Portions are distributed outside Bible House in New York City. Many adorn makeshift shrines around the city dedicated to the memories of those who perished.
- Scriptures are sent to military chaplains for distribution for Pentagon workers.
- Some 15,000 Scriptures, in both English and Spanish, are sent to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York.
- Scriptures are distributed at vigils in neighborhoods around New York as well as a city-wide memorial service at Yankee Stadium.
- A total of 18,301 Scripture Portions were downloaded from the American Bible Society Website.



THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

▲ Dr. Eugene Habecker, left, at Ground Zero.



# RECORD

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hard hat fitted. By the time we returned to our starting point, only one of the ten boxes we had brought remained; all the rest had been distributed.

On Sunday, September 23, at a *Prayer for America* service held at New York's Yankee Stadium, more than 20 Bible Society volunteers distributed another 12,000 Scriptures to passersby and to the 20,000 persons attending the service. With all the major faith traditions represented, the service was another celebration of our diversity. This catharsis of prayer for our pain and fears revealed again a public yearning to connect with something deeper — to fill the emptiness left by routines, distractions, and friends abruptly severed by evil. It showed



DAVID SINGER

## ▲ Prayer at Yankee Stadium.

again the renewed openness of people to consider the promises of God's Word.

As we approach our nation's season for giving thanks to God, we can give thanks that we do have somewhere to turn—that we are not abandoned — that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever — that our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. The Psalmist writes, "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a place of safety in times of trouble." Psalm 9:9 (GNT)

We are shaken but not shattered. While we cannot comprehend the mystery of evil, we can take the long view and trust the promise of Isaiah 32: "Honesty and justice will prosper there, and justice will produce lasting peace and security." vs. 16,17 (CEV) Amen!

*Eugene B. Habecker*

The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of Bible societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

Published continually since 1818, the *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of the American Bible Society and the second oldest continuous publication in the United States. It is published six times per year, and is sent to anyone contributing \$4 or more each year to the Society. Postage is paid at New York, New York, and additional mailing offices. Other publications wishing to reproduce any of the articles contained herein are encouraged to do so. A credit line acknowledging the source of the material and a copy of the issue containing such material would be appreciated.

(ISSN 0006-801)





# STANDING ON A SOLID ROCK

The American Bible Society's steadfast adherence to its Scripture sharing mission provides the basis for everything we do. Undergirding our ability to deliver the assurance of God's Word in times of tragedy is the financial legacy created by our supporters.

The thoughtful plans and commitments of those participating in our planned gift programs have insured both our stability and our ability to react with effectiveness and impact in times of special need.

Gift planning programs of the American Bible Society have been designed for people in all circumstances of life. We urge you to learn more about plans that will work for you and that will insure a future with the Word of God available for all.

To obtain our booklet, *Creating a Lasting Legacy – Making a World of Difference*, please call 1-800-820-6227, or complete the reply envelope in this issue.



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
*Sharing God's Word with the World*

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[www.americانبible.org](http://www.americانبible.org)



A V I S I O



P L A N E



# N O F A N O T H E R



**IN THE FACE OF THE HUGE** tragedy at the World Trade Center, spending a few hours sorting clothing and offering Scripture portions for rescue workers seems like a tiny gesture. So many people killed, so many others left in grief. Walking down New York's streets, I see many pictures of those missing from the World Trade Center. The photos show the men and women in happier times, smiling, with their friends and families. ¶ The pictures help. All New Yorkers know what the Twin Towers looked like. And what their remnants look like now. If we didn't have

B Y T H O M A S D . S U L L I V A N

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

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## IMPACT OF SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

The chief of police for precincts in the Bronx was so moved after reading the Scripture portions dedicated to the rescue effort that he ordered copies for all those under his command.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

relatives or friends in the towers, we also know something of the people who worked there. The "Missing" photos reveal the love of colleagues, friends and relatives.

The sea of T-shirts, socks, sweat suits needs sorting, and I see that this stuff is getting used. A visiting volunteer coordinator is wearing sweatpants that still have their label. Policemen drop by, looking for



boots. Two sanitation workers need new gloves. And one picks up a pamphlet of Scriptures. My colleagues at the American Bible Society sorted. And sorted. National Guard troops needed T-shirts — in green only, please. A friend fished some out. They left with the shirts and two boxes of our portions.

From this parking lot under the Manhattan Bridge, I have a great view of the skyline, which is missing something. But it's evident, especially in New York, something else is needed. People can see another gap — within their own hearts. They need a reason to live. A way to face the awful deaths and injuries of so many people.

Working steadily, my co-workers open boxes filled with a cornucopia of clothing. Some packages included sweet handwritten thank-you notes for rescuers and



*The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be  
in the future. . . . we hope for something we have  
not yet seen, and we patiently wait for it.*

volunteers. We sort items and put them in plastic bags, putting the bags in crates. Jay Bingham, a volunteer who coordinates supplies to Ground Zero, heartily thanks us for our work.

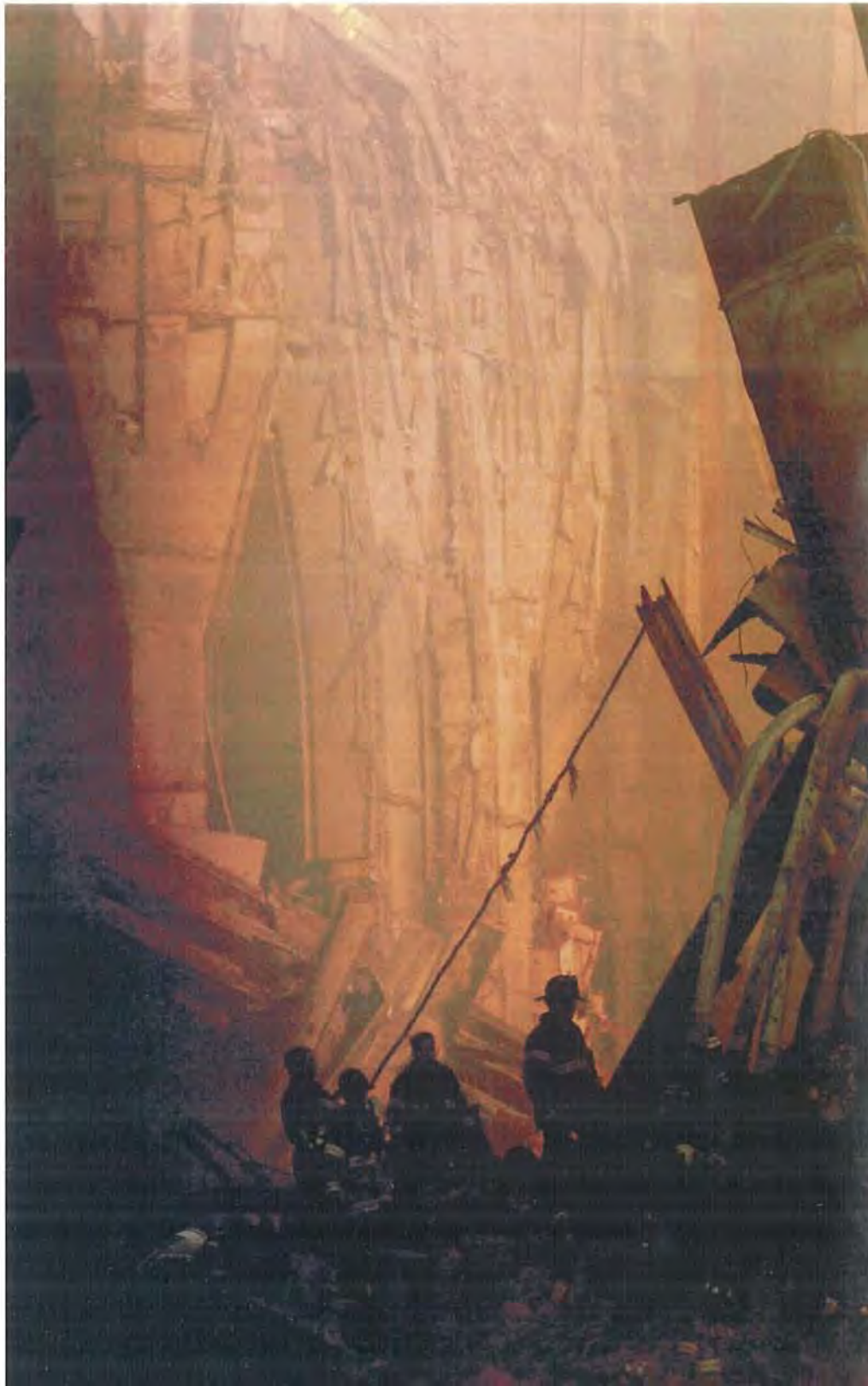
Our Scripture pamphlets deeply impressed Mr. Bingham, who took boxes of them for the rescue workers. "These will go to Ground Zero," he says.

Some American Bible Society volunteers visit Ground Zero. A haze covers the carcass of the Twin Towers, where only shards of the skin still stand like the back of a ruined wicker chair. Dust is everywhere, coating the surrounding buildings vandalized by the blast. I thought of the people who died there. Rescue workers have written notes on the dust-caked windows. "God bless us," one wrote.

Mr. Bingham explained how the Twin Towers fell, and how officials are monitoring those buildings left standing. It's terrible to see, a vision of another planet, filled with destruction and death. But it is not only a place of endings. People are working to slowly undo the damage. Some things cannot be undone. Yet there's hope.

Through the Scriptures, those who've witnessed terrible scenes will receive consolation. Patrick English, the American Bible Society's executive vice president, is moved to tears. Before he leaves Ground Zero, he wraps his arm around Mr. Bingham and they pray together.

Two millennia ago, the Roman poet Catullus dedicated a poem to his dead brother, trying to "speak, though in vain, to your silent ashes." The Scripture passages we're offering tell us that there is reason to hope for something better. "The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future. . . . we hope for something we have not yet seen, and we patiently wait for it" (Romans 8.18,25 CEV). ■





# A CALL TO PRAYER

FROM THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY TO A HURTING AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 2001

*"We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again."* —2 CORINTHIANS 4.8-9 (CEV)

The American Bible Society mourns for the loss of life and the wounds to the soul of America. We pray for everyone touched by the World Trade Center tragedy and we surround them and all others so affected with our love and care. As Jesus wept over Jerusalem, we too weep over New York and Washington, D.C., so ravaged by the results of terrorism.

*"I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid. You are with me, and your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe."* —PSALM 23.4 (CEV)

The sense of vulnerability brought by such a shocking attack must be countered with the assurance of a loving God who walks with us through the darkest valleys of life.

We commend the heroic efforts of police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel and hospital staff as they risked themselves for the sake of others. And we express our deep appreciation for those who have given blood and worked as volunteers to assist the rescue and relief efforts. God has blessed us by their marvelous commitment to help others.

*"Live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful. Then you will say to the LORD, 'You are my fortress, my place of safety; you are my God, and I trust you.'" —PSALM 91.1-2 (CEV)*

We at the American Bible Society offer ourselves for prayer and assistance to the community as we call all of God's children to act from the best of themselves. We will distribute the Scripture portion, "God Is Our Shelter and Strength," throughout New York City and Washington, D.C., as a way of offering God's comfort and hope from the Holy Bible.

God is the creator of us all and this must be remembered throughout these desperate days.

We say with utter confidence that God will see us through this terrible time. As it says in Psalm 46.1-2a (CEV): *"God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble. And so, we won't be afraid!"*



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
*Sharing God's Word with the World*





We placed full-page ads in *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *El Diario*, the largest Spanish newspaper in New York City, offering free Scripture Portions that focus on the comfort found in God's Holy Word. We also produced a smaller ad in the *The Wall Street Journal*. These will be followed with ads in various Christian publications appearing in the weeks ahead.

*“Simply put, the devastation is unspeakable and indescribable.”*

—Dr. Gene Habecker, President, American Bible Society, after visiting Ground Zero with a police escort.

# HOPE AMID THE RUBBLE

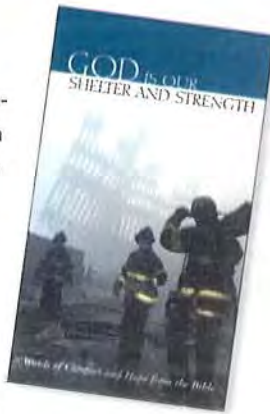
Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, your American Bible Society has been hard at work.



All of our Internet sites have supportive downloadable Scriptures, articles, and other words of encouragement. Our Web sites include [www.sbamericana.org](http://www.sbamericana.org) (our Spanish language Web site), [www.forMinistry.com](http://www.forMinistry.com) and [www.americanbible.org](http://www.americanbible.org). We are indeed sharing God's Word with the world!

In response to our nation's crisis, the American Bible Society created a very special Scripture portion, "God is Our Shelter and Strength." We have distributed more than 1,000,000

Scriptures through a variety of channels and media in both English and Spanish—and more requests arrive daily. To receive your free copy, simply use the envelope at the center of this issue.




We created a two-page flyer in English, Spanish and Chinese offering hope to all throughout New York City. It is not uncommon to find these flyers on the walls of fire stations throughout the city. Many people have been touched and encouraged.



Public service announcements were distributed by satellite to 5,300 radio stations, in both English and Spanish. We anticipate launching an additional radio strategy that further extends the American Bible Society's reach in sharing God's Word.





*“A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation  
and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children,  
Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.”*

—JEREMIAH 31.15 (NKJV)



# WHILE A NATION WEEPS

*The American Bible Society responds at Ground Zero*

## NEW YORK WAS ONCE

a city with attitude. It featured young women in stylistic black, taxi drivers honking, and deliverymen blaring their radios from double-parked delivery trucks. That was the old New York. ¶ After September 11 New York emerged from the rubble. It was transformed into a city of silent subway riders, makeshift altars around small parks and firehouses and consoling, soft and gentle radio voices. The sounds of sirens — once just a routine of the cacophony of city life — now implied something more ominous. Everywhere were pictures of missing loved ones. Nearly all were of young men and women, too young. Gotham was a metropolis filled with Rachels — and Rays and Ramons and yes, Mohammeds — weeping. ¶ It was a new New York, a shaken city. ¶ “I used to worry about what to dress in the morning. Now I wake up and dress and wonder, ‘Will I make it to work?’” an American Bible Society staffer wondered aloud. ¶ New Yorkers and other Americans listened as Pres-

BY PETER FEUERHERD



ident George W. Bush invoked the 23rd Psalm: "I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid." (*Contemporary English Version*). On Friday, Sept. 14, a city with a reputation for its unease with public expressions of faith, filled churches for a national hour of prayer. In the Catholic liturgical calendar, it was the feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

And the American Bible Society (ABS), perched at 61st and Broadway, some three

miles from what was the World Trade Center, was in the middle of it all. Like everyone else in this shaken city, staffers at Bible House were stunned.

New York is said to be a city of strangers, strung together by people barely touched by six degrees of separation. On Sept. 11, it seemed the degrees of separation shattered like those mammoth towers. Everyone seemed connected to someone in danger. Anxiety flashed through ABS

offices, like it did everywhere. One staffer's sister is an employee at the stricken Pentagon; another man's wife worked in the financial district across the street from the Twin Towers; a cousin of another employee worked on the 74th Floor of the first tower that was struck. Another had a father who worked at World Trade Center. They all survived. The boyfriend of another staffer, however, is among the more than 5,000 missing and presumed dead.

Like much of the rest of the city — and the entire country — ABS emerged in the aftermath of the terror with a plan of action, formulated while its staff was still mourning. An ad appeared in *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, *El Diario* (a New York Spanish-language daily) and the *Amsterdam News* (a New York newspaper targeted to African Americans) proclaiming: "In these most troubling times, a nation born of a desire to freely worship God can find hope and comfort in His Holy Word." The full-page ads offered comfort via the Scriptures: "Live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful." (Psalm 91.1,2 CEV)

The ads were illustrated by a picture of three New York firefighters in front of the last bare fragments of the proud buildings that once towered over the city.

Bible House staffers gathered in daily prayer services. At one, Dr. Eugene Habecker, president of ABS, counseled employees to respond without hatred to the dastardly terror attack. He exhorted that "we become the people God wants us to be." Dr. Habecker cited Matthew 5.44: "I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you." (CEV)

He also read letters of support from Bible Societies all over the world. Some came from places, such as Northern Ireland and nations in the Middle East, which have long known terrorism. The leader of the Bible Society of Nigeria noted he was praying that God would "erase any bitterness and hatred" from the hearts of Americans. Words of support



◀ A makeshift New York shrine.



came from the Bible Society of Rwanda, another nation that has known the horrors of terror.

Staff members began collecting funds for the American Red Cross and brought supplies to the hard-pressed rescue workers at the World Trade Center. ABS matched the donations.

Some ABS staffers, seeing a city in need, began distributing comforting



## IMPACT OF SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

Eleanor DeMeglio, a 12-year-old student at Pershing Junior High in Brooklyn, distributed Scripture portions to fire stations throughout the borough as well as to her teachers. "I think they're great. They give inspiration to everyone," she said, noting that she, like many of her classmates, have relatives who worked in the World Trade Center area. While one of her relatives was injured, they all were able to escape. She found that the Scripture portions helped her through the confusion and anxiety she experienced. "It helped me to get inspiration," she said.



Scripture Portions around New York. It was estimated that more than a million ABS Scriptures and Portions of Scriptures were distributed around the nation, many of them in New York City as people flocked to a Web site and called toll-free numbers to place their orders.

About 15,000 Scriptures in English and Spanish were donated to St. Patrick's Cathedral, which became a kind of unofficial center for spiritual response to the crisis throughout the weeks following the attacks. More thousands were sent to National Guard, firehouses, police stations and other agencies assisting in the clean-up.

Gordon MacDonald of the Salvation Army, who was at what came to be known as "Ground Zero" throughout the weeks after the attacks, saw American Bible Society materials making a difference.

The Portions distributed to rescue workers at the site provided "prayers that are pertinent to life at the pit for the police, firefighters and other personnel. We couldn't give them away fast enough



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SINGER

▲ Shrine at firehouse, top right; Scripture distribution on city streets, center; and distribution outside New York Bible House, bottom.





## IMPACT OF SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

NYPD detective Carlos Aviles, president of Police Officers for Christ, distributed Scripture portions to rescue workers at Ground Zero. "You can see the difference in their faces when they see the cover. It has been awesome for all the rescue workers ... It touched me to see how God's hand was reaching out through a little booklet," he said. One firefighter hugged the booklet like an old friend; another, after reading the passages, shared with Mr. Aviles the anguish of growing up as an abused child.



▲ American Bible Society volunteers sort clothes for Ground Zero workers, top left; writing memorial messages, center; and a makeshift street shrine, bottom.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SINGER

later in the day."

Carmen Feliciano, an ABS staffer, participated in one of the many vigils held around the city. In her Brooklyn neighborhood she said that even cynical teen-agers, who would never have bothered before Sept. 11, grabbed as many Scripture Portions as they could carry.

Ms. Feliciano organized the volunteers who brought supplies to relief workers at

the World Trade Center site.

It's not what you saw on television, she noted at a Bible House prayer service. It was worse. Sanitation workers, never trained for such duty, were in the process of picking up body parts. The thousands of police officers, firefighters and volunteers will need long-term emotional and spiritual support, she cautioned.

"This is changing and destroying lives," she said.

Another staffer, a niece of a firefighter, took it upon herself to distribute posters and other Scripture materials to firehouses around the city. The department suffered more than any of the New York City agencies, losing more than 300 people.

The staffer noted that the poster, with Scripture quotes and the picture of three firefighters next to the lone remnant of the shattered facade of the World Trade Center, proved consoling to a department that coped with disaster clean-up while fallen comrades were mourned.

A group of ABS staffers worked one day sorting donated clothes near the



*Thus says the Lord: Refrain your voice from weeping, And your eyes from tears; For your work shall be rewarded.*

—JEREMIAH 31:16, (NKJV)

explosion site in support of the rescue workers [see accompanying story].

ABS, located in the heart of New York's bustling Lincoln Center area, also provided a desk outside the building providing Scriptures at no cost to passersby.

One Asian immigrant said she would send them to relatives and friends in her homeland so her friends would know that Americans are tapping into spiritual resources to deal with the crisis. Another man jumped out of his car and grabbed a Portion on busy, traffic-clogged Broadway. Others collected material to distribute to their churches.

Wally Clair Jenkins grabbed Scriptures and flyers. She loves God's Word. "It gives me comfort," she said.

Most took the material with a quiet thanks. "They pick them up and they're not speaking much," noted ABS staffer Mildred Mas.

Occasionally, the distribution of Scriptures became an opportunity for sharing about the tragedy.

Mary Lou Habecker, wife of the ABS president, distributed Scriptures outside the ABS building. She was approached by a man who filled his bags with Bible items.

"I'm Muslim," he said. "I want to get God's words of comfort to any who hurt. We're in this together."

As one walked around the city, one could see the ABS Scripture Portions all over. Some were being handed out by devout Christians anxious to offer support. "God bless you," one said as he slipped it into the hand of a pedestrian.

Others were attached to posters of the deceased, providing comfort to passersby. One was placed near a poster in Greenwich Village proclaiming, in Spanish and

English, a quote from St. Paul: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

ABS staffers hoped and prayed that their efforts would make an impact on a troubled city and nation. In that effort,

they had the consolation of the Scriptures themselves. ■

*Thomas D. Sullivan provided reporting assistance for this story.*

## PRAYER SERVICE DISPLAYS NEW YORK'S UNITY

**Y**ankee Stadium — a house of baseball champions — was transformed into a gigantic prayer meeting for New York's heroes and survivors 12 days after the World Trade Center attack.

The service featured leaders from the Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Muslim communities in an inspiring show of unity. At the stadium, representatives from the American Bible Society distributed Scriptures to provide strength and inspiration to the grieving.

Rabbi Marc Gellman capsulized the distress felt by all New Yorkers by describing the significance of the Sept. 11 events.

"On that day, 6,000 people did not die. On that day, one person died 6,000 times," he told the gathering of some 20,000 people. "The real horror of that day lies not in its bigness but in its smallness ... and the death of each and every one of them alone would be worthy of such a gathering and such a grief."

Carmen Feliciano, an American Bible Society (ABS) staffer who distributed Scriptures at the event, noted that even though the religious leaders represented the wide diversity of New York's communities, they shared a single theme.

"They talked about our dependency on God, that we are going to need God to protect us," she said.

Ms. Feliciano said that the firefighters and police officers at the service who were presented with an ABS Scripture Portion featuring World Trade Center rescuers were "touched and moved" by the support offered by ABS.

Julian Gumbs of ABS saw the event as another outpouring of unity among New Yorkers.

"I was surrounded by a sea of American flags and clothing of red, white and blue. There is definitely a resurgence of patriotism and an unabated cry for God to bless America," he said.

ABS staffer and native New Yorker Jeanette Russo said the Yankee Stadium event was



unique in her experience.

"It was the first time in my life I saw clergy from so many different faiths come together," she said.

Besides the religious themes, political leaders such as New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who recited the 23rd Psalm, and Gov. George E. Pataki also spoke. The event featured top-flight entertainers, including singers Placido Domingo, Bette Midler and talk-show host Oprah Winfrey.

ABS worker John Colligan noted the uneasy co-existence between the unity and spirituality offered at the event and the anxieties that have gripped New York in the wake of the attacks.

"I saw the loaded big dump trucks presumably there to minimize car bomb attacks juxtaposed with the sight of ABS staff courageously and actively distributing God's Word," he said.



# FIRM FOUNDATION

*In a time of crisis leaders turn to God and His Holy Word*

**WE HAVE ALWAYS NEEDED GOD** from the very beginning of this nation, but today we need Him especially. The Bible's words are our hope: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea" Psalm 46.1,2 (NIV).



worried or afraid." John 14.27 (CEV)  
—Dr. Eugene B. Habecker,  
President, American Bible Society  
offering Scriptures after visiting Ground Zero

"I have been asked hundreds of times why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I really do not know the answer totally, even to my own satisfaction. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and He is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering."

—Dr. Billy Graham,  
National Day of Prayer and Remembrance  
National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a place of safety in times of trouble." Psalm 9.9 (GNT)

"I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world gives. So don't be



Just hours before his State of the Union address, President Bush met with 27 clergymen at the White House. Sitting in a circle in the Roosevelt Room, the President asked for prayer. "Pray for patience, pray it will not happen again," he said. As for him, he was healthy and rested, focused and feeling "confident without being Pollyannaish." But he needed divine help, too. "Pray for wisdom, strength, clear thinking," he said, and joined hands with the circle as they did so.

—President George W. Bush

"All of the victims of this tragedy were innocent. All of them were heroes. The Bible says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" John 15:13 (KJV). Our brave New York City Firefighters ... New York City Police Officers ... Port Authority Police Officers ... EMS workers ... health



care workers ... court officers ... and uniformed service members ... They laid down their lives for strangers.

We pray for our President, George W. Bush ... and for our Governor George Pataki ... who have provided us with such inspiring leadership during these very, very difficult times. We pray for all of those whose loved ones are lost or missing ... we pray for our children.... Finally, we pray for America ... and for all of those who join us in defending



freedom, law and humanity. We humbly bow our heads and we ask God to bless the City of New York, and we ask God to bless the United States of America."

—Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani,  
Citywide Prayer Service at Yankee Stadium  
Sunday, Sept. 23, 2001





# WHAT PIERCED OUR HEART CANNOT CRUSH OUR HOPE

On September 11, 2001, our lives were changed forever. Our country was tragically wounded. For so many, a sense of security collapsed with those towers. But amid the chaos, one thing is certain: Ours is a God of love whose Word will remain. We find our hope and encouragement in God's Word. You can too. We're here to help.

*God's Word is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow.  
Together, we can find comfort in His Holy Word.*



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# HOPE AT GROUND ZERO

When the terrorist planes hit the World Trade Center, disaster struck quite literally in our own backyard — less than five miles from Bible House. So close we could smell the smoke.

Thanks to you, we were ready. Since that tragic day, the American Bible Society — *your* American Bible Society — has been there, meeting the pressing need for God's Holy Word. We are distributing Scripture portions in English and Spanish all across New York City, all across the country.

And the need for the hope and encouragement found only in God's Word continues.

We can't thank you enough for your past support. It allows us to reach out to our hurting neighbors. And while we're using the full resources of the American Bible Society to meet this unprecedented hunger for God's Word, so much more needs to be done. Won't you prayerfully consider standing with us during this time? Your special gifts and prayers are critical to this nationwide response.

Please use the envelope in the middle of this magazine to let us know you're praying. And as you are able, your gift of any size will be put to good use on the frontlines. Why not respond today?



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