 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

RECORD

FALL | WINTER 2005

SPECIAL EDITION *introducing*
THE WORLD'S GREATEST GIFT
C A T A L O G



*Restoring Hope
Rebuilding Lives*

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Reaching Out to Touch Someone

In a flash lives were turned upside down. And in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, millions of survivors still struggle to regain their footing. We are so grateful to generous and compassionate supporters like you who help us share the hope and comfort of God's Word with men, women and children in this country, and around the globe, who are buffeted by the storms of life. Because of your faithful support, the American Bible Society was able to respond immediately to the call for Bibles. Truckloads amounting to more than half a million Bibles and Scripture booklets were and are being distributed to evacuees in and around the Gulf Coast by volunteers who know that God's Word is the only source of true solace. Nearly one thousand members of Lakewood Church in Houston handed out Bibles and offered spiritual counsel to people in long lines waiting for aid. Even members of the Bible Society staff from New York and Texas have gone to the Gulf Coast to help.

We know that the rebuilding process will take months, and we are shifting our focus now to helping church communities reestablish themselves. If you are moved to support this effort, please go to our Web site at www.americanbible.org/response, or send us your gift by mail.

With this issue of the RECORD, and just in time for Christmas, we are very excited to present "The World's Greatest Gift Catalog" to you. We believe you will enjoy learning about these heart-touching needs, and hearing how your support can help share the greatest gift of all.



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The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of 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 publication in the United States. It is published in "Special Editions" and is sent to as many of our supporters as budget allows. Postage is paid at New York, N. Y., and additional mailing offices. Other publications are encouraged to reprint the text of any *Record* articles, but prior written permission must be obtained from the *American Bible Society Record* to reproduce any images. Publications reprinting the text of *Record* articles must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the *Record* at 1865 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10023. (ISSN 0006-801)

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

— Galatians 5.14b (GNT)

You will also read about our partnership with Hosanna Ministries and *Faith Comes By Hearing*® (FCBH) Scripture listening program. FCBH is a vital dimension of Bible Society outreach, taking the message of God's love to cultures accustomed to communicating orally, telling the gospel stories just as Jesus did. I encourage you to visit www.americanbible.org to consider supporting this life-changing work.

In all of these ways the American Bible Society is helping fulfill the Bible's mandate that we "love one another." Thank you for joining with us in this life-changing endeavor.

In Christ's service,

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The World's Greatest Gift CATALOG

Welcome to a new offering of specific opportunities to share the good news, encourage faith and inspire hope, just in time for Christmas!



IN MEMORY OF

Memorialize a loved one by helping to provide Bibles to people who don't yet have one

My father, Jere Lawrence Crook, Jr.
Given by: Senter Crook

Grant C. Newton
Given by: Leon and Marian Rand

My beloved husband, Orville S. "Joe" Johnson
Given by: the Estate of his beloved wife, Emily B. Johnson

Our parents, Jerry and Billie Randall
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Garraw

Memorials of \$500 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in the *American Bible Society Record*. For further details about the memorial program, please write to:

Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway
New York, NY 10023-7505.

PLEASE PRAY

In the Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Please pray for our efforts together to supply the Word of God to churches as they rebuild on the Gulf Coast.

ON THE COVER

Man carrying the remainder of his belongings through the hurricane-ravaged streets of New Orleans.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Restoring Hope Rebuilding Lives

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY OFFERS HURRICANE SURVIVORS THE COMFORT OF GOD'S WORD



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

by *Billy Vaudry*

THE FACES TELL THE STORY OF THE HURRICANE SURVIVORS.

Look into the eyes of the mother separated from her infant, the young man who has lost his job and the children living in a shelter thousands of miles from a home that no longer exists, and you will see fear and hopelessness.

According to news reports, Americans have contributed some 1.2 billion dollars to help meet the physical needs of the more than 1 million displaced people of Louisiana, Mississippi and the Gulf Coast region. This represents an outpouring of compassion on target with our contributions to tsunami relief earlier this year. But what can we do about the spiritual health of these survivors? *How can we restore their hope?*

The American Bible Society launched into immediate action to offer the peace, comfort and everlasting hope that can only be found in God's Word. Dorris Ellis, editor of the *Houston Sun*, volunteered to hand out American Bible Society Bibles to people waiting in line for FEMA support. While standing there, she said, "They're going to hold onto this Bible because they got it in line waiting . . . and some are going to read it right now . . . this Bible's going to make them more whole, as they wait and try to be patient, and when the bumps come, it's going to make a difference. It is empowerment. It's the blood of Jesus right in their hands."



EARSTOHEAR

Learning to Rely on God

BY DAVID SINGER



Jerry Jackson holds a prototype of "The Proclaimer," a player that uses digital memory to hold the entire New Testament. It operates on batteries that can be recharged by solar energy, a hand crank or AC power.

JERRY JACKSON HAD FINISHED college but didn't have a next step planned. One day, out of boredom, he picked up and began reading a New Testament given to him for his high school graduation. Reading the Book soon led him to attend church; the people he met there led him to think that following Christ was an obvious and practical thing to do.

In following Jesus, Jerry has done what seems obvious and practical ever since. Early on, for example, when he began asking questions of other churchgoers, he discovered they hadn't read their Bibles. A seed was planted.

Eventually Jerry, with his wife Annette, began sharing Christ with Native Americans. One day they stepped into a mission library on a Hopi reservation where they saw shelf upon shelf of unused Hopi Bibles; most Hopis had never learned to read their native language — the Bibles

were useless to them.

If people couldn't or wouldn't read, maybe they'd listen. The Jacksons opened a cassette lending library of recorded Bible teachings; *Hosanna*, a new ministry, was born. When Jerry came across a narration of the New Testament recorded on vinyl records — recordings made by the American Bible Society to make God's Word accessible to the blind — Jerry got permission to put the narration onto cassette tapes. Another seed was planted.

Then in 1986 an unusual request turned *Hosanna* in a new direction. Indigenous communities in Haiti and Peru asked *Hosanna* to provide audio Scriptures in their native languages. Over the next few years *Hosanna* relied on the Bible Society and other Bible translators to provide translations in many languages. Often the national Bible Societies then distributed the audio Bibles to local churches.

Ethnic languages help solidify an indigenous community's identity. On the other hand, these languages can cut indigenous nations off from sources of income and political influence. Often state-run schools don't teach the local languages, so whole peoples do not learn to read, trapping them in poverty.

Work among Native Americans showed Jerry how devastating this

connection between poverty and illiteracy could be — people most in need of hope could not read God's message of hope in the language that would best speak to their heart.

Then Jerry saw himself sitting under a tree reading the Bible eight hours a day. He wasn't sure what this new vision meant until he launched *Faith Comes By Hearing*® (FCBH) in 1990. Because of the link between illiteracy and poverty, FCBH involves whole churches in listening to Bible tapes.

Depending on the language, it takes 12 or more cassettes to hold the New Testament and 45 or more if the Old Testament is included. Often people unable to read — the ones most in need of audio Scriptures — can't afford the tapes, let alone a tape player. The FCBH listening plan brings an entire church together to listen to the Scriptures; the New Testament can be covered in 40 half-hour sessions. As they listen, those with limited reading ability and a



Listening group in Ghana, Africa

The American Bible Society had a world-wide network in place for developing listening programs among local churches.

In French-speaking areas of Africa, such as Benin, the program is exploding. This year, 145 new listening groups involving 2,234 participants were established there. A total of 400 listening groups with 7,237 participants now listen to the spoken Word in Benin each week. In one church, where 95 percent of the members are illiterate, 49-year-old Sognibe Dorcas, says, "FCBH has helped me understand the Word of God — it has changed our lives."

Ago Brigitte, age 37, who attends a group, says, "Anger

*If people couldn't or wouldn't read,
maybe they'd listen.*

Bible follow along, thereby improving their reading skill.

In 1991, *Hosanna* opened its first international Recording Service Center in Ghana to record dramatized Bible translations into African languages using native speakers. There are now 13 recording sites.

But it was not until the Bible Society launched the *Opportunity 21* campaign in 2000 that the advantages of full-fledged partnership with FCBH became obvious. Whether for print or audio, the translation work has to be done. And with nearly half the world's population unable to read, and so many unable to afford Bibles, audio was an obvious way to go.

used to be my major weakness, but I learned through listening [to the FCBH tapes] that the one who is angry with his brother is compared to a murderer. . . I confessed and let go of the anger for fear I would miss the Kingdom of God."

So far, FCBH has recorded the New Testament in 184 languages and, in partnership with the Bible Societies, is reaching nearly 20,000 churches and villages in 83 countries.

Jerry says of the partnership with the Bible Societies, "It has lit a fire in my bones that consumes me. I didn't think I would see this in my lifetime." ■

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE

Immersed in the River of Life: A Wartime Victory BY DAVID SINGER



At a lean six foot-seven, Brian Waite is a standout kind of guy. He's a chaplain who likes to be on the front lines. And that's where he was when the Marines entered Iraq, crossing the "line of departure" with his charges on March 19, 2003, with the 3rd battalion, 2nd Marine division.

"We were non-mechanized combat infantry," he says. "Ground-pounders, grunts. What you can't carry, you don't take."

With supply logistics always a challenge, having enough Bibles was a concern. Before departing, Chaplain Waite dumped all the personal gear from his pack and filled it with small military Bibles from the American Bible Society. Equipped with those and a communion kit on his belt, he headed into battle.

He says, "I was passing out so many Bibles I couldn't even hold on to my personal copy. It was humbling to discover how much of the Word I'd ingrained into my heart."

He called this his first "real-deal." He found that the best way to cope was to minister, and keep up an internal dialogue with God. "Am I going to be able to demonstrate my faith to these men? Even secular guys are looking to the chaplain — watching how I'm handling this."

He held services every night: simple Bible studies, sharing the Word, praying, communion.

Chaplain Waite calls his ministering style "intrusive leadership." He wants the troops to take God at his Word — to depend on the reality of a relationship with Christ. He says, "Ultimately this helped me connect with the men, being there with them, forcing myself into their lives, hanging out with them. I joked around, integrated with their concerns."

The pay-off came a few days before Easter. Three or four Marines approached and asked Waite to baptize them. He told

▲ The combat correspondent who took this photograph following the baptism, much like the Ethiopian in Acts 8, asked the Chaplain what it all meant. "I shared with him from an American Bible Society Bible, about this sacred rite," says Waite, pictured back row, center. "The photographer responded, 'I'd like to be a follower of Jesus.'" He was the last one baptized that day.

them first they needed to understand fully what being baptized meant. Then, if they still wanted to, he'd try to arrange it. He set up a class time and suggested that they invite others to attend. Seventy-seven Marines showed up for the first class.

Elaborate security arrangements were made, and on Easter Sunday 44 Marines were baptized in the Tigris (the "River of Life" in Arabic). Another 16 were baptized over the next two days.

"It was the power of the Word of God that brought them; it has a power unto itself," says Waite. ■



"For God & Country" chronicles Chaplain Brian Waite's experience of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A portion of the proceeds go to the "Orphans and Widows Fund" for those who have lost a parent or spouse in Iraq.

One of the first responses by the American Bible Society was to rush Bibles to evacuees being sheltered in Houston's Astrodome or while they were waiting in long lines for help. Nearly 1,000 volunteers from Lakewood Church in Houston, who personally placed God's Word into the hands of evacuees, were also trained to offer counseling for the hurting. Evacuees in more than a dozen additional States also received Bibles.

"Katrina's survivors have so many needs — especially food, water and shelter. And people across America have opened their hearts and homes to them," said Dr. R. Lamar Vest, chairman of the American Bible Society Board of Trustees. "But they also need hope — which is absolutely essential when you're starting life over."

The American Bible Society is working through a network of congregations and partner organizations — including The Salvation Army, Feed The Children, Samaritan's Purse, the Church of God, Convoy of Hope, Operation Compassion, Safe Harbor International and others — to deliver Bibles, New Testaments, Children's Bibles and Scripture portions to those who so desperately need them. God's Word is being offered in a variety of formats and languages.

Volunteers have distributed more than 700,000 complete Bibles, New Testaments and Scripture portions to evacuees. "The American Bible Society was in the same region of our country in 1927 when another hurricane flooded and devastated vast areas where people lived," said Dr. Paul Irwin, president of the American Bible Society. "And now, in 2005 the Bible Society is back again with the same mission."

The American Bible Society is sharing a special version of the Scripture booklet, *God Is Our Shelter and Strength*, printed specially for Katrina survivors. So far 246,000 English and 50,000 Spanish copies have been given away.

With an estimated quarter of a million displaced people placed in Texas alone, many who were relocated a second time as Rita threatened. The need is great. But in each of the nearly 20 states involved, the American Bible Society and its partners are already at work.

"With the help of our generous friends, we are committed to this important work for the duration," Dr. Vest said. "Not only do we want to give individuals copies of the Bible, but we also want to help congregations replace Bibles that were destroyed as they rebuild their churches."

The joy on each face as survivors clutch God's Word makes for a hope-filled future as they begin to rebuild their lives after Hurricane Katrina. ■

Billy Vaudry is a writer from New Orleans. To find out how you can help give God's Word to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina, please visit www.AmericanBible.org/response.



AF/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



AF/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



DAVID SINGER

Dorris Ellis, editor of the *Houston Sun*, helps distribute American Bible Society Bibles to people lined up to receive their relief funds.



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- They share tax-wise ways to support the American Bible Society and your favorite ministries.
- They assist donors in achieving their goals through our ministry to pass on their values to heirs.
- They bring news and updated reports of American Bible Society activities, offering another way to connect donors with our ministry.

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QUIET TIME

A GUIDE TO DAILY BIBLE READING

We hope you will use this guide in your daily study of the Bible.

OCTOBER 2005

*Rooted in Christ and
Striving for Peace and Justice*

1 Job 34.1-37

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

2 1 Corinthians 11.17-34

3 Exodus 20.1-21

4 Exodus 23.1-13

5 Leviticus 19.1-37

6 Leviticus 25.1-34

7 Leviticus 25.35-55

8 Numbers 27.1-11

SUNDAY

9 Deuteronomy 15.1-18

10 Deuteronomy 16.9-22

11 Joshua 22.1-20

12 Joshua 22.21-34

13 2 Kings 6.8-23

14 2 Kings 8.1-6

15 Habakkuk 2.1-20

SUNDAY

16 Isaiah 1.1-31

17 Isaiah 2.1-22

18 Isaiah 3.1-26

19 Isaiah 5.1-30

20 Isaiah 57.1-21

21 Isaiah 58.1-14

22 Isaiah 59.1-21

SUNDAY

23 Amos 5.1-27

24 Micah 6.1-16

25 Matthew 23.1-12

26 Matthew 23.13-36

27 Matthew 25.31-46

28 James 1.1-27

29 James 2.1-26

SUNDAY

30 Psalm 46

31 Psalm 85

NOVEMBER 2005

*Rooted in Christ and
Giving Thanks and Praise to God*

1 Genesis 1.1-2.4a

2 Genesis 2.4b-25

3 Psalm 104

4 Psalm 105

5 Psalm 107

SUNDAY

6 Nehemiah 8.1-18

7 Esther 8.1-17

8 Esther 9.20-32

9 Psalm 89

10 1 Chronicles 15.1-16.6

11 1 Chronicles 16.7-36

12 1 Chronicles 17.16-27

SUNDAY

13 2 Chronicles 34.1-7

14 2 Chronicles 34.8-21

15 2 Chronicles 34.22-33

16 2 Chronicles 35.1-19

17 Psalm 92

18 Psalm 93

19 Psalm 95

*BIBLE SUNDAY

20 Isaiah 55.1-13

21 Isaiah 56.1-8

22 Psalm 113

23 Psalm 115

THANKSGIVING DAY

24 Psalm 65

25 Psalm 66

26 Psalm 67

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

27 Mark 13.14-37

28 Psalm 80

29 Psalm 81

30 Psalm 84

**National Bible Week
is November 20 – 27, 2005.*

**To involve your church
in Bible Sunday, call
toll-free 1-800-545-6552.*

DECEMBER 2005

*Rooted in Christ and
Spreading Joy to Everyone*

1 Isaiah 42.1-25

2 Isaiah 43.1-28

3 Isaiah 44.1-28

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4 Isaiah 49.1-26

5 Psalm 24

6 Psalm 96

7 Psalm 97

8 Psalm 98

9 Psalm 99

10 Psalm 100

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11 Malachi 3.1-4

12 Malachi 4.1-6

13 Zephaniah 3.8-20

14 Daniel 6.1-28

15 Daniel 7.1-14

16 Revelation 19.1-10

17 Micah 5.2-9

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

18 Isaiah 9.2-7

19 Luke 1.1-25

20 Luke 1.26-38

21 Luke 1.39-56

22 Luke 1.57-66

23 Luke 1.67-80

24 Luke 2.1-20

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 John 1.1-18

26 Isaiah 60.1-22

27 Isaiah 61.1-11

28 Isaiah 62.1-12

29 Isaiah 65.1-25

30 Revelation 21.1-27

31 Revelation 22.1-21

JANUARY 2006

*Believe the Good News and
Follow Jesus*

1 Mark 1.1-20

2 Mark 1.21-45

3 Mark 2.1-17

4 Mark 3.1-19

5 Mark 3.20-35

EPIPHANY

6 Matthew 2.1-15

7 Mark 4.1-20

SUNDAY

8 Mark 4.21-41

9 Mark 5.1-20

10 Mark 5.21-43

11 Mark 6.1-29

12 Mark 6.30-56

13 Mark 7.1-23

14 Mark 7.24-37

ECUMENICAL SUNDAY

15 John 17.1-26

16 John 1.19-51

17 Mark 8.1-26

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS

***18** Mark 8.27-9.13

19 Mark 9.14-32

20 Mark 9.33-50

21 Mark 10.1-16

SUNDAY

22 Mark 10.17-34

23 Mark 10.35-52

24 Galatians 1.1-24

25 Acts 9.1-25

26 Acts 9.26-43

27 Acts 21.17-36

28 Acts 21.37-22.21

SUNDAY

29 Acts 22.22-23.11

30 Acts 26.1-23

31 Acts 28.11-31

**The Octave for Christian Unity is
January 18-25, 2006.*

FEBRUARY 2006

Believe the Good News and Share God's Love

- 1 Mark 12.28-44
- 2 Leviticus 19.1-18
- 3 Deuteronomy 6.1-9
- 4 Deuteronomy 6.10-25

SUNDAY

- 5 John 13.1-20
- 6 John 13.21-35
- 7 John 21.15-25
- 8 Romans 1.1-17
- 9 Romans 8.31-39
- 10 Romans 12.1-21
- 11 Romans 13.8-14

SUNDAY

- 12 Romans 14.1-12
- 13 1 Corinthians 1.1-17
- 14 1 Corinthians 13.1-13
- 15 1 Corinthians 16.1-24
- 16 2 Corinthians 1.1-11
- 17 Galatians 6.1-18
- 18 Colossians 3.1-17

SUNDAY

- 19 Psalm 34
- 20 Psalm 36
- 21 Psalm 62
- 22 Psalm 63
- 23 Psalm 91
- 24 Psalm 107
- 25 Psalm 138

SUNDAY

- 26 Hebrews 13.1-19
- 27 1 John 3.11-24
- 28 1 John 4.7-21

MARCH 2006

Believe the Good News and Pray for One Another

ASH WEDNESDAY

- 1 Matthew 6.1-18
- 2 Psalm 51

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

- 3 Psalm 33
- 4 Luke 18.1-14

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

- 5 Acts 4.1-31
- 6 Ephesians 1.1-23
- 7 Ephesians 3.1-21
- 8 Philippians 1.1-11
- 9 Philippians 4.2-23
- 10 Colossians 4.2-18
- 11 2 Chronicles 30.1-12

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

- 12 2 Chronicles 30.13-27
- 13 Ezra 9.5-15
- 14 Nehemiah 1.1-11
- 15 Esther 4.1-17
- 16 Job 17.1-16

17 Daniel 9.1-19

18 Jonah 2.1-10

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

- 19 Habakkuk 1.1-17
- 20 Habakkuk 2.1-20
- 21 Habakkuk 3.1-19
- 22 Psalm 27
- 23 Psalm 28
- 24 Psalm 31
- 25 Psalm 38

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 26 Psalm 40
- 27 Psalm 41
- 28 Psalm 42
- 29 Psalm 43
- 30 Psalm 44
- 31 Psalm 121

EASY READING



EASY LISTENING

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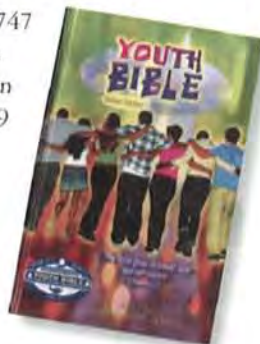
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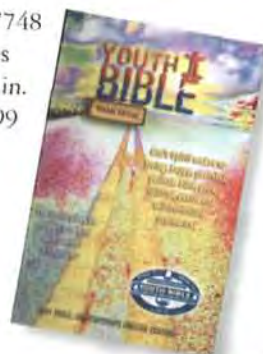
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