

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

Spring/Summer 2010

Going the Distance

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Joy Comes in the Morning

"Tears may flow in the night, but joy comes in the morning."
Psalm 30.5b (GNT)

It must have been quite a morning when the women were told the news that Jesus had been raised. But not until they ran for themselves, not until they saw with their own eyes, did they discover the truth that could not be denied. Their joy after nights of tears confirmed the Easter miracle.



The hope of God's Word is often like this. Right in the midst of darkening struggles and even suffering, God reveals a most unlikely joy.

My wife, Vickie, and I are so blessed to see glimpses of this from across the work of the American Bible Society. Springing up in some heart-wrenching places such as Haiti, are heroes, just beginning to rebuild a nation, physically and spiritually (see page 10). In China and Tanzania, as lifetimes of longing are fulfilled, you can see joy transforming the faces of individuals, now holding in their own hands and hearts, the story of the God that loves them (see pages 12 and 22).

Here in our own city neighborhoods, homeless men and women are finding a better way forward, rooted in a discovery of God's Word, and breaking free to a future hope they never dreamed possible (see page 4).

But there is still more to do. As an ABS delegation returning from the Democratic Republic of the Congo reminds us, the desperate need for the life-changing message and hope of God's Word has never been clearer (see page 21).

Your prayers and encouragement mean so much to me. No matter the challenges, the promises of God's Word stand: Death and the grave speak loudly, but they do not get the final word. Easter's resurrection hope prevails. Joy does come in the morning.

R. Lamar Vest

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CONTACT US

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD
212-408-8754
absrecord@AmericanBible.org
www.AmericanBible.org

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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 the Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD
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Obama or God: Who Said It?

A national survey conducted by Harris Interactive® for the American Bible Society found that a majority of Americans are having trouble recognizing some of the Bible's strongest promises for those who are struggling.

Of the 1,001 U.S. adults surveyed, 54 percent attributed a Bible verse about caring for the poor and oppressed to celebrities and politicians rather than the Bible. President Obama received the highest percentage of attributions.

The survey was conducted to coincide with the release of *The Poverty & Justice Bible*, which is the first Bible to highlight the more than 2,000 verses expressing God's compassion for the issues of poverty and justice.

Although 80 percent of the adults polled claimed to be familiar with the Bible, nearly half of them thought the Bible offered the most teachings on heaven, hell, adultery, pride and jealousy. But the Bible offers more teachings on poverty than any of those topics.

"The survey results illustrate the reason we created *The Poverty & Justice Bible* — a collaboration between the Bible Society and World Vision — to highlight God's gospel concern for the poor, marginalized and oppressed," said Lamar Vest, president of ABS.



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Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

NATIONAL

Hope for Hurting Teens



The *Confessions* book and Rob Beckley are pictured here.

The American Bible Society teamed with Rob Beckley, lead singer of the Christian rock band Pillar, to produce *Confessions* — a book that speaks to the heart of teenage pain. Titled after Pillar's sixth studio album, *Confessions* addresses some of the key issues affecting today's youth: spiritual doubts, brokenness and self-image. Each section includes thematic confessions, a short devotional, reflection questions and Scripture references.

Confessions was inspired by the band's spring 2009 tour. The hard rock quartet wanted to engage its fans in a new way and distributed thousands of confession cards. "We decided to give our fans a way to pour out their hearts

anonymously, yet before God," says Beckley. "It definitely brought kids to the point of acknowledging their sin." The impact from the tour carried over into the *Confessions* album and led to the development of the book.

The book was given away at Pillar concerts and can be ordered online at Pillar.AmericanBible.org (free, plus shipping and handling.) Here, you can also view an e-version and download three exclusive online-only chapters.

Soldier Cards Inspired Personal Art



A sample of the art sent to the American Bible Society to accompany the soldier cards mailed to troops overseas.

Drawings such as this capture the sentiments of American children who are encouraging our soldiers. They were included in many of the military cards donors sent back to ABS to be forwarded to troops at Christmas.

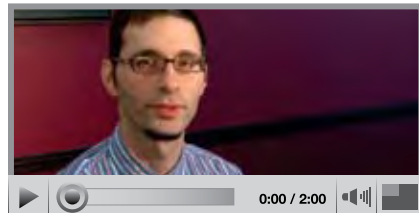
ABS received 28,630 military cards, nearly 10,000 more than last year. This extraordinary response testifies to our donors' commitment to support our troops in many parts of the world.

Changing Lives in Midtown Manhattan

In mid-January, hundreds of volunteers gathered at Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, preparing for a citywide homeless outreach event called "Don't Walk By." The American Bible Society and The Bowery Mission, New York City's largest spiritually based homeless outreach program, provided Bibles and Scripture Portions for volunteers to hand out while traversing the streets of midtown Manhattan.

The goal was to reach out to as many homeless people as possible, offering them information about The Bowery Mission and other local homeless ministries. Encouragement from God's Word was a key goal as well.

Hundreds of homeless men and women received a better understanding of where they could receive food, medical care, spiritual counseling and other services offering opportunities for life change. One beneficiary, Anthony Kravit, said, "The Bible has impacted my life by giving me hope, but most of all, showing me love . . . the love of Jesus."



Anthony Kravit shares how the Bible is showing him the love of Jesus.

To watch a video about The Bowery Mission outreach, go to ABSRecord.com/bowery

Exhibition Celebrates the Release of *The Poverty & Justice Bible*

She stands amid destruction, trash littered about her. Yet she holds her head high, the faintest trace of a smile flirting on her face. It's clear she will not be mitigated by circumstances.

This picture, standing at 31 feet by 13 feet, arrested passersby on Broadway, one of New York City's busiest thoroughfares. This photo, along with 11 others, was part of an exhibition of art celebrating the release of the American Bible Society's *Poverty & Justice Bible*.

Titled "What is Good," the exhibition showcased the work of award-winning photographer David Sacks at the ABS' New York bookstore. The exhibit, which ran from Dec. 15, 2009, to Jan. 30, offered an intimate look at the challenges of poverty. Yet it also spoke to the powerful hope of restoration.



"What is Good" photos by David Sacks were on display at Bible House.

ABS Launches New Bible Search Tool

The American Bible Society has created an exciting new resource — an innovative Web search engine that enables you to explore and engage the Bible.

- Simultaneously search across 10 different Bible translations
- Tag verses and add notes to help populate the site and personalize your search
- Discover exclusive stories of life change that relate to your searches
- Make it yours by adding the Bible Search tool to your own Web site

Try it out today at BibleSearch.AmericanBible.org

Help make it better. Tell us what you think. *See ad on page 7.*

Nationwide 'Get the Truth' Challenge

As part of its national Bible engagement campaign, the American Bible Society partnered with Word Label Group and their Winter Jam 2010 concert tour. This national tour of Christian music, which ran from January through March, premiered in 44 U.S. cities and reached an estimated 400,000 fans.

Sidewalk Prophets promoted ABS' Bible engagement campaign at 36 Winter Jam concerts. Fans were encouraged to take the "Get the Truth challenge" and

sign up to receive Scripture text messages on their cell phones.

After its first weekend of concerts, Sidewalk Prophets' lead vocalist Dave Frey and guitarist Ben McDonald e-mailed ABS with their impressions: "We can already see how God is weaving relationships that go far past the surface and connect us by his unending and overpowering love and grace. Having the support of everyone at ABS is an overwhelming comfort, and we're excited to be serving with you."

Partnering with Sidewalk Prophets on this texting initiative is one way ABS is

engaging youth with Scripture in relevant and meaningful ways.



Sidewalk Prophets, pictured here, promoted the American Bible Society's engagement campaign at 36 Winter Jam concerts.

PHOTOS BY CALEB KOMOROWSKI; VIDEO STILL BY EILU CORNIELE

PHOTOS BY GARY SCHUTZ; TEC PETAJA

NATIONAL

Prison Chaplain Leaves Legacy of Love

On Jan. 8, Chaplain Drew Vail, who ministered to prisoners in the Cameron County Jail in Brownsville, Texas, died suddenly. Chaplain Vail, who was 62, had worked with the American Bible Society for more than 12 years, faithfully distributing Scriptures to prisoners.

Having struggled with addiction for 31 years, Chaplain Vail was once pronounced dead in 1990. Miraculously, he came back to life, and while in prison, had a

spiritual awakening. From that point on, he dedicated himself to Christ and was known to preach at least three services daily at the jail.

As part of his ministry, Chaplain Vail also worked with The Virtuous Women's Group, a small gathering of female inmates who met with him weekly to learn about the Bible and God.

Cameron County Sheriff Omar Lucio says many of the women turned their lives around as a result of working with Chaplain Vail. Although he was known for taking a strict approach with the women, he always tempered his messages with love.

And this perhaps is his greatest legacy.

"What sticks out is the love he had for God," says Chaplain Louis Boling, who — along with Chaplain Zeke Silva — is taking over his mission at the jail.



Chaplain Drew Vail hands out ABS Scriptures to Cameron County Jail inmates.

MUSEUM OF BIBLICAL ART

Selections from Rare Scriptures from the American Bible Society on view in "Pearl of Great Price"



Helen Keller, pictured in April 1941, reading a volume of Braille Scripture. A tribute to the American Bible Society atop the photo reads: "To the American Bible Society, Whose light shines bravely against the greatest darkness of the world. Cordially Helen Keller."

The American Bible Society published the first American Braille Bible in 1911. The *King James Version*, in Ms. Keller's lap, was one of 20 Braille volumes printed by ABS that comprised one Bible.

The first in a series of exhibitions showcasing the American Bible Society's Rare Scripture collection, "Pearl of Great Price" — title inspired by Matthew 13.46 (KJV) — is on view now at the Museum of Biblical Art (MOBIA). The 20 volumes displayed offer a glimpse into the rich history and great lengths to which generations of people went to put biblical texts into as many hands as possible.

Included is Helen Keller's personal Braille Bible, the frontispiece of the Gutenberg Bible and many other treasures. Each one tells a story of the translation, publication and often amusing and poignant details about its marketing and ownership.

On view through May 30, at MOBIA, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY.

"Pearl of Great Price" Bookmaking Workshop for Families

Families will try their hand at block printing and create a handmade book using a traditional Japanese binding method. Suitable for children 7-12 and their parents. Saturday, May 15; pre-registration required.

Call MOBIA at 212.408.1500



PHOTOS BY ENID ALMANZAR AND COURTESY OF AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

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Put Bible Search on your own Web site. Customize the look — keep all the dynamic functionality.

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HOPE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Join us for an evening of stories and inspiration, as we discover the hope of God's Word in the lives of new and rising generations.

Speakers will include David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, and expert columnists from WORLD magazine, addressing the challenges and promises of God's Word in today's youth culture.

March 25: San Diego

April 29: Chicago

May 18: Atlanta

June 17: Boston

September 16: New York City

For more information or to register, call:
1-866-960-7966

Tickets: **\$35**

Passing the Baton

Opening Doors for a New Generation of Bible Ministry Volunteers

BY LIZ SMITH



Dr. Lamar Vest chats with Mrs. Nellie Bicksler at a tribute celebration in her honor.

as word of mouth spread through her church, town and county, more and more people came. The events were not complicated. Typically, Mrs. Bicksler would tell stories about the history and mission of ABS and serve great food. Every room in the house was decorated and set up with Bible Society Scripture materials. Many were for sale, yielding hundreds of dollars for ABS.

Nellie Bicksler is proud to say, "I was made an honorary lifetime member of the American Bible Society in 1985." And Mrs. Bicksler's work continues today. At Bible House in December, she passed a baton symbolizing volunteer leadership onto Bishop and Mrs. Hugh Nelson, inviting them to continue on in her efforts and to help ignite a new generation of Bible activists.

"American Bible Society volunteers should understand and feel one thing: joy!" So declared Mrs. Nellie Bicksler at a recent tribute hosted by the American Bible Society to thank her for more than 50 years of service.

Born in 1912, two months before the Titanic sank, Mrs. Bicksler is now a great grandmother and living proof of her favorite Scripture, Psalm 91. "It's about trusting the Lord to keep you safe from harm, which he continues to do," she says. In April, she is celebrating her 98th birthday with family and friends.

As a volunteer, Mrs. Bicksler devoted much of her time to zealously promoting the American Bible Society. For her communities in Florida and

South Carolina, she created and hosted several events a year, welcoming hundreds of people into her home.

It was an enormous undertaking, but she is quick to say, "Oh, I had lots of friends to help me."

Children delighted in the birthday parties for Jesus and Scripture fashion shows she created. For the latter, they dressed up and walked down a fashion-style runway carrying a printed Bible verse while a commentator read the Scripture and explained its context for the audience.

Perhaps her favorite event was an annual open house, which she held over a weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Early on it was small. But

We offer a variety of ways you can volunteer, including:

- Hosting your church's Bible Sunday
- Organizing local Bible studies or reading groups
- Coordinating prayer activity or groups
- Researching Scripture and Bible content
- Planning special meetings
- Staffing events booth
- Providing office support

Visit Volunteer.AmericanBible.org, or call 800-322-4253.

VIDEO STILL BY MALORIE TULL

Update FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

HAITI Help and Hope for Haiti

"I am asking God to give me the strength I need to participate in [the reconstruction] of my country. We have to rebuild it," declared Magda Victor, general secretary of the Haitian Bible Society.

The Jan. 12, 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck just outside Haiti's capital city with a force equal to "several nuclear bombs," reported CNN. Within moments, nearly 3 million people were affected as Haiti faced its worst natural disaster in a century.

The most immediate physical need was clean water for drinking, cooking and sanitation. In partnership with Operation Compassion and Water Missions International, the American Bible Society helped deliver 50,000 gallons of water.

But only God's Word can bring comfort and hope. Along with the water, the American Bible Society



Working together to meet immediate needs for water after the earthquake in Haiti.

joined forces with OneHope, Back to the Bible and Faith Comes by Hearing®, to help support the Haitian Bible Society's effort to get 200,000 copies of the Scripture Portion, *God is Our Shelter and Strength*, and 3,000 audio New Testament Proclaimers™ to those suffering. And for those who lost their Bibles in the earthquake, ABS sent 50,000 French and Haitian Bibles to be distributed within two months of the disaster. For more information about ABS' response to Haiti and stories from the ground, visit Haiti.AmericanBible.org

BRAZIL 6 Million Bibles in One Year

The Bible Society of Brazil (BSB) is commemorating an unprecedented

accomplishment: In 2009, the BSB surpassed its record by 5.7 percent; it distributed 6 million Bibles in Brazil and across the globe. Rudi Zimmer, general secretary of BSB, said, "As we were coming to the end of 2009, people at several locations in Brazil suffered losses through flooding caused by heavy rains; some people even lost their lives. As the new year started and we were finishing our statistics . . . we were shocked with the tragedy in Haiti. These experiences underline even more the importance of getting the Word of God to the people."



Brazil's Bible Society printed a record number of Bibles in 2009.

CAMEROON Musgum Speakers Eager for Old Testament Translation

Silas Anamak, 77, is beginning to worry. "This translation business is taking too long," he says sadly. "You can see how old I am . . . how long do I have left? I'm afraid of dying without ever having seen the Bible in Musgum."



Silas Anamak is looking forward to having the Bible in his own language. Northern Cameroon (Chad border), October 2009.



The team of Musgum Old Testament translators.

The Musgum region of northern Cameroon is extremely poor, but Christians are often the poorest of the poor. In this region, which is 70 percent Muslim, the best-paying jobs are generally taken by the majority.

The Musgum New Testament was published in 1964, but work on the Old Testament only began in 2002. They had to choose translators from the younger generation and train them.

The completed Musgum Bible will be published at the end of 2014. These years will seem very long to the

Christians in the region.

As Silas Anamak declares, "What consoles me a little is that, even if I personally do not live to see the day when it is dedicated, at least my children and grandchildren will see it, and then, when the whole Bible is in our language, the truth will be accessible to all our people."

GULF STATES Revealing Jesus to Kids Across the Gulf

For children of expatriates who now call the countries surrounding Saudi Arabia their home, finding Christianity in the heart of Islam can be daunting. In fact, many of these children struggle with their Christian identity and need help learning the value of God's Word in their lives.

The Bible Society in the Gulf, along with the Grain of Wheat Foundation, is reaching out to these children with a program called Just for Kids. In this Scripture-meets-the-arts project,

children learn about the Bible through puppets, sketches and songs. The shows are geared for 3-to-12-year-olds, yet attract parents who need help nurturing their children in the Christian faith. Scriptures are also distributed at the shows so children can read God's Word at home and learn to walk in his ways.



Children join in excitedly at the performance given by the Just for Kids drama and music troupe in Abu Dhabi during its tour of the United Arab Emirates.

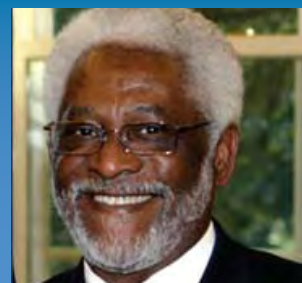
INDONESIA Bibles for Children



A young boy in Jakarta receives a gift, including a children's Bible.

American Bible Society President R. Lamar Vest provided a grant for the purchase of children's Bibles in the *Alkitab* language for 1,500 children

across the poorest parts of Jakarta. For many, this was a first Bible for them and the first invitation for those from non-Christian families to open the doors of their hearts to Jesus.



Haiti's Ambassador and the American Bible Society

In a *Washington Post* story by Hamil R. Harris and Michael Ruane, the Ambassador to Haiti Raymond A. Joseph, who was speaking from his office in the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C., talked about the earthquake disaster-relief command center on the first floor of the Embassy. The Ambassador is a journalist-turned-diplomat and the son of a Baptist preacher. In discussing his faith, he was quoted as saying that, "In 1960,

he translated the first New Testament and Psalms in Haitian Creole under the auspices of the American Bible Society."

Ambassador to Haiti, Raymond A. Joseph, helped translate the New Testament into Haitian Creole.

HAITI PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER; HAITI AMBASSADOR RAYMOND A. JOSEPH COURTESY OF WWW.HAITI.ORG.; THROWINGLIGHT.COM; JACQUELINE ZOUTENE. PHOTOS BY JOAQUIM DASSONVILLE; ERIE S. DEIRA; AND COURTESY OF BIBLE SOCIETY IN THE GULF; COURTESY OF TOMMY & POPPI SMITH MINISTRIES.

RWANDA SNAPSHOT Jenny Finds a Bible



Jenny and her Bible from Rwanda's jungle.

A torn Bible lay on the ground deep in the jungle in Kigali, Rwanda. Curious, Jenny, pictured left, picked it up and hasn't let go of it since. Here she displays her treasure to her Faith Comes By Hearing® listening group.

Although the Bible is missing parts of Genesis and Revelation, it's the only one available to the group. Having

learned firsthand the beauty of God's spoken Word, the group now yearns for his written Word. Their plea echoes across the continents: "We need Bibles. Please help us."

GOING THE DISTANCE

Reaching Remote Peoples of China
with God's Word

BY BARBARA DELP

With two new Bible translations completed in 2009, God now speaks in the heart languages of the East Lisu and Big Flowery Miao people of China.

In thanksgiving ceremonies last fall, church leaders unveiled the newly translated Bible for the Miao and the New Testament for the East Lisu people. The ceremony for the East Lisu was held in one of the area's largest churches, Taogu Village Church, high up in the mountains of Yunnan province. Taogu Village Church, sitting more than a mile above sea level, is the birthplace of the East Lisu Church. It had been more

One of those on hand to receive a copy of the New Testament was 73-year-old Yang Hanquan. When translation efforts began on the East Lisu New Testament in 1984, most of the six members of the translation team were elderly men. Hanquan was the youngest and today is the only surviving member of that early team.

The Rev. Yong Haiwen, a fourth-generation Christian and a pastor to the East Lisu people, held the New Testament with reverence. "I am now holding the New Testament that for generations my ancestors had hoped to see," he said.

"I am now holding the New Testament that for generations my ancestors had hoped to see."

— Rev. Yong Haiwen

than 100 years since a missionary first presented the gospel to the East Lisu people. Getting the New Testament in their language was a long time coming.

On that day, people came great distances in hopes of getting a personal copy of Scripture. A group of choir members said they walked 12 hours to reach the church in time for the ceremony. Some, knowing the church would be filled beyond its capacity, brought their own benches and stools so they could sit outside and be part of the celebration.

As a pastor and member of the translation team, Haiwen knows the problems of not having Scripture in people's heart language. He explained that when people hear the Bible in their own language, the stories become much more relevant to them.

"In the course of translating God's Word, I am particularly fond of Luke 14.15-24, 'The Parable of the Feast.' To read this parable in East Lisu speaks volumes. The parable [speaks] about throwing a great feast, marriage ceremonies, buying a field and oxen. We can relate to all these activities as they are close to our East Lisu customs," said Yong.



East Lisu people returning home after receiving the New Testament; one woman was carrying her own bench.



The Rev. Yong Haiwen, an East Lisu pastor, at the celebration of the distribution of the East Lisu New Testament at Taogu village in 2009.

The Face of Jesus in China



"It was a small church, jam-packed," said David Isais, philanthropic advisor for ABS, who chaperoned a group from Florida to China. "And they were singing their hearts out *a cappella* because there was no organ."

The visitors were from Central Florida, and on this particular afternoon in September they were in Baoding, a city of 12 million people, southwest of Beijing.

The people had come to church on this Saturday because they'd been told that the visiting group would be giving out Bibles. After the congregants were told that everyone there was going to get a Bible, the smiles were blinding.

But the most moving moment came when the audio recording of the Scriptures began playing. A young woman, pictured above, changed from delighted to ecstatic as she listened to God's Word in her heart language for the first time.

Then, as the Bibles were being handed out, people grabbed the hands and arms of the givers and wouldn't let go. Tears were falling out of their eyes as they repeated, "*Shangdi zhufu ni,*" which means God bless you in Mandarin.

David remembers thinking to himself, "God, what did I ever do to deserve being here as YOU answer their prayers today?"

So many languages

Prior to publishing these translations, the Big Flowery Miao and the East Lisu did not have God's Word in the languages they speak every day. (*The Miao New Testament has been available since 1917.*) They are not alone. Of the 516 people groups in China, more than 82 percent of them (according to the Joshua Project) are considered unreached by God's Word, and one of the main reasons they remain unreached is the language barrier. The Bible has been available in Mandarin since 1819. But Mandarin is not the heart language of all 1.3 billion Chinese. In fact, there are 55 other languages in China, besides Mandarin — the official language — and countless dialects of the languages used by the 55 minority groups. Many members of minority people groups, such as the East Lisu, simply don't speak Mandarin.



Two Miao ladies reading the Bibles they have just received.

It may be hard to conceive, but China — a country with a geography slightly smaller than that of the United States — has a population more than four times as large. This makes translation work even more critical for spreading the gospel in the world's most populous country.

The two newest translations bring to nine the number of official Bible translations available to China's 516 people groups. Also known as the East

Lipo people, 50,000 to 60,000 East Lisu Christians will benefit from the new translation. The culture of the East Lisu is deeply rooted in their Christian faith, which seems amazing given that they didn't have God's Word in their language until now.



Copies of the Miao Bible at its launch at Daqing Village Church in Yunnan Province, China, September 2009.

In 1906, a British missionary, the Rev. George Edgar Metcalf, began translating the New Testament in the East Lisu language — a work that took him more than 40 years to complete. Still, even without written Scripture, the East Lisu made remarkable progress in their spiritual maturity. Within 20 years of first hearing the gospel, many East Lisu congregations were mature enough in their faith to be providing significant financial support to their churches. Metcalf finished his translation of the East Lisu New Testament in 1947. It took him another five years to have it published in Hong Kong by the Bible Society there. In a mystery of history, copies of that new translation were mailed from Hong Kong to China, but never arrived.

By the mid-1960s, China was



The congregation at a Miao church in Manpo, Yunnan Province, China.

beginning to undergo the Cultural Revolution — a time of repression when churches were closed and Bibles were burned. Certainly no translation work was being conducted. It wouldn't be until the 1980s that the East Lisu people were able to start working on translating God's Word in their own language. It would take another 25 years to complete.

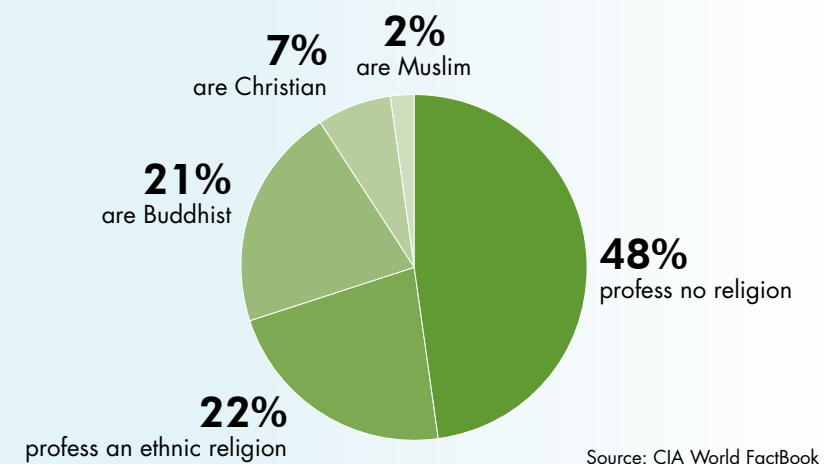
While the work of translating and delivering God's Word to China is not yet completed, this is a moment for thanking God for new opportunities for tens of thousands of believers across China. "It was indeed a great celebration for the people — a celebration long awaited for more than a century," said Yeo Tan Tan, program manager for United Bible Societies' China Partnership. 🌟

PHOTOS BY DAVID ISAIS; UBSCP/YEO TAN TAN.

PHOTO BY DAG SWEWIC.

China's Faith at a Glance

Of China's 1.3 billion people who profess religious belief . . .



Learn why the Chinese love the Bible.
Go to ABSRecord.com/chinamiao

Bible Q&A

I have a “Life Boat Bible” unopened and sealed in what appears to be some weather resistant paper. Based on the typography and style of the packaging, I believe it may date from the 1930s to 1950s. Can you tell me anything about this Bible?

— Matt Steinruck, by e-mail

The Scripture you have is a New Testament in the *King James Version* produced by the American Bible Society during World War II. It was probably printed in 1942. Between 1941 and 1945, ABS distributed to our service personnel 4,440,119 copies of the New Testament and a total number of 7,419,366 Scriptures. Some of them were packaged like yours and were then placed in survival kits on ships and planes. As Margaret T. Hills wrote in her “English Bible in America” (a bibliography published in New York: ABS, 1961, #2409), these were “the only Scriptures issued by the Society that it hoped would not be read.”

In 1 Samuel 28.11,13, how does the witch call or resurrect the spirit of the saint Samuel?

— Asmait Tekie, by e-mail

The 1 Samuel 28.3-25 narrative provides no details about the rituals or conjuring process.

In the ancient world, belief in magic, sorcery and witchcraft was common. Witchcraft and consulting the dead was forbidden by the Law of Moses (Leviticus 19.26, 31), because relying on spirits or powers other than God showed a lack of faith and trust in the one true God (see also Deuteronomy 18.9-14).



A copy of *The New Testament for Life Boats and Rafts* in its original packaging. The Bible was distributed by American Bible Society during World War II.

Those who practiced witchcraft or sorcery were to be put to death (Exodus 22.18; Leviticus 20.27). King Saul had expelled all such persons from the land (1 Samuel 28.3, 9); yet, when King Saul was afraid of the approaching Philistine army, he did not pray to God for help. Instead, he violated his own prohibition and broke the law forbidding witchcraft by asking a woman from Endor, who talked to spirits, to call on Samuel, who had died some time before (1 Samuel 25.1; 28.3).

In ancient Israel, it was believed that when people died, their souls went down and stayed in the dark underworld called “Sheol.” When the medium invoked the spirit of Samuel, it would

have been assumed that his spirit came from Sheol, which was understood to be in the center of the earth. It was also believed that the spirits of the dead hovered around the body for a year after they died; apparently this made the spirit of the dead person amenable to being summoned during this time.

Puzzled by a Scripture passage? Submit your Bible-related questions to Dr. Liana Lupas at llupas@AmericanBible.org or via U.S. mail.



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Help Deliver God's Word Where It's Needed Most



1 Scripture for Egypt's Children

Kingo, a household name in Egypt, is a loveable lion character sharing the life-changing message of God's Word with children from Garbage City and across the country. Kingo Festivals bring stories of God's Word to life through songs, stories, skits and dancing. Egyptian children learn about the God who loves them and gives them hope. Each gift of \$50 will enable 50 children to attend a Kingo Festival, receive Bible-based materials and be invited to connect with a local church.

\$50 #5005



2 Bibles and Comfort for Persecuted Christians

Sadly, countless Christians around the world struggle under persecution. Living as minorities in their countries and communities, they are sustained by the light of their faith. Yet, despite the loss of homes — and sometimes the lives of loved ones — many of these brave Christians must persevere without Bibles of their own. Each gift of \$80 provides God's Word to 20 persecuted believers.

\$80 #7001



3 God's Word for Our Troops

As military personnel serve the cause of freedom, they face dangers and challenges daily. They need God's Word to give them direction, hope, courage, peace and comfort. Each gift of \$40 will help provide a special camouflage-covered New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs to 10 of our brave men and women serving in uniform.

\$40 #3001



4 Hope for Haiti Through Emergency Water & Scripture

The worst natural disaster in more than 200 years struck the island of Haiti in January. At least 150,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands more are without the basic necessities of life. The American Bible Society and its partners have responded quickly and are on the ground. But we need your help to reach as many as 250,000 survivors! Each gift of \$100 will provide 65 survivors with a gallon of clean water and a copy of God's Word.

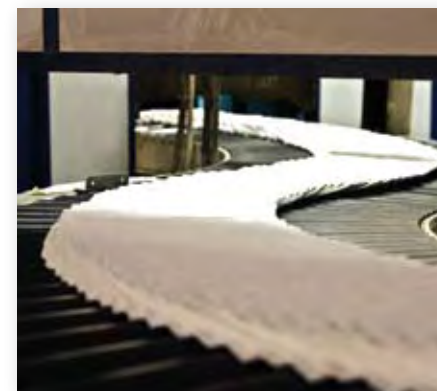
\$100 #2005



5 Bibles for Believers in China

According to certain estimates, nearly 15,000 people in China come to Christ daily. Yet, China's men, women and children are at the epicenter of a Scripture famine. In fact, more than 100 believers have to share a single Bible. Your gift provides paper for printing 75 Bibles. Help put sacred Scripture into the hands of a nation that yearns for God's Word.

\$75 #4001



6 Keep the Bible Presses Rolling

From Asia to Africa, the worldwide need for Scripture is overwhelming. There are simply not enough Bibles to reach everyone who yearns for God's Word. You can help — right now — by supplying God's Word to 15 believers where the need is most desperate.

\$60 #6005



7 Help U.S. Inmates Find Peace Through God's Word

Men and women in prison live lonely lives, struggling with guilt and anger over their misdeeds. Many are desperately searching for answers to a life filled with pain and frustration. Each gift of \$60 will help 30 lonely hearts find the true comfort in God's Word.

\$60 #6007



8 Give Hope to America's Children Through Bible Storybooks

Thirty-seven million Americans are living in poverty today. Many poor children are fearful they may starve. But through our ministry partnerships, we can provide them with the Bread of Life found in Bible storybooks — along with much-needed nutritious emergency food. Each gift of \$23 provides three families with a Bible and 25 pounds of groceries.

\$23 #5002



9 Comfort for Wounded Warriors in Scripture

Since 1846, the American Bible Society has delivered God's Word to American servicemen and women. These courageous veterans, many of whom are sick and injured from war, have paid a personal price for our freedom. Your gift provides military chaplains with much-needed Scriptures for ministering to three wounded American heroes.

\$12 #3002



10 Hope for Street Children in Azerbaijan Through God's Word

Nearly half of the people of Azerbaijan live on less than \$1 per day, and children as young as 5 are sent into the streets to earn money to help support their families. These children need to hear God's Word and experience his love. They need hope. Your gift of \$16 will provide Scriptures to eight children in Azerbaijan.

\$16 #1002



11 New Testaments for Forgotten Children

Will you send a gift of love to a forgotten child? The number of poor, orphaned and abandoned children throughout the world is growing at an alarming rate. Working with our fellowship of 145 Bible Societies around the world, you can send comfort where it is needed most by providing New Testaments for 100 precious children who need Christ's message of hope.

\$100 #5003

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CONGO

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a country ravaged by violence. The Second Congo War, which began in 1998, has all but decimated this nation of 68 million people. Despite the signing of peace accords, fighting continues in the east of the country where the prevalence of rape and other sexual violence is described as the worst in the world.

John Walter, director of National Campaigns at the American Bible Society, recently visited DRC as part of a delegation reviewing Bible Society work in this region, and exploring new avenues of support.

The following excerpts from his blog chronicle some of his experiences on the trip. Look to the next issue of the Record for a feature story on Mr. Walter's trip, as well as ABS' response to a people that needs God's healing and redemption.



The first thing I notice on the Belgian Airlines flight from Brussels to Kigali, Rwanda, is the preponderance of U.S. passports. Fully half of the people on this flight are Americans, seemingly part of a great pilgrimage of inspiration.

For us, Rwanda is merely a transit point. Our destination is the DRC, where the wounds are still dripping with blood. We can but take hope and lessons from its neighbor to the west, Rwanda, that small country of a thousand hills where the only path out of hell — reconciliation — is taken seriously.

I'm privileged to be part of a delegation led by a coworker who grew up in DRC, graduated from high school and college, and then came to the United States for graduate work. If the spirit of the people is anything like his, we are in for the kind of culture shock that shakes up complacent American lives. No bitterness, anxiety or fear is present in him. He is at peace, despite his family narrowly escaping disaster in his home village. I pray for equanimity as we meet with people whose life stories seem improbable simply because they are still alive to share them.



On the left is the woman who opened her home in DRC to those in need, including the woman on the right, and now it's a full-fledged orphanage and refuge for victims of violence. Please pray for them.

We visit a family that has taken in orphaned and abandoned children and women. As our car pulls in through the gate, we are greeted by singing and dancing and a sign welcoming us. All around we receive reckless and endless joy. We bring them Bibles; they leave the building clutching them in their hands, singing, dancing, weeping. We match their weeping with tears of joy.

In an instant, our joy is replaced by disbelief, for now we meet women and children who — in the dispassionate language of bureaucracy — are the "displaced." These are the victims of *viol* (French for violence) who have been taken in this refuge for rape victims. This is where heaven and hell collide, where the church reaches out in compassion and concern to care for those who suffer at the hands of evil.

As ABS considers how to minister alongside leaders in this wounded nation, please pray for an end to their suffering.

The Celebration of a Generation

The Datooga of Tanzania Rejoice Over God's Word

BY LIZ SMITH

"I saw another angel. This one was flying across the sky and had the eternal good news to announce to the people of every race, tribe, language and nation on earth." Revelation 14.6 (GNT)

The walls inside the tin-roofed and rough-hewn yellow brick church were draped with colorful flags. Generators pumped a steady hum to power the keyboard, speakers, microphones and rotating fans. A

crowd of around 300 dressed in plaid regalia and multicolored dresses pressed in along the narrow wooden benches that ribbed the nave of the church. People in plastic chairs — some three and four deep — lined the

circumference, leaving standing-room-only for nearly a hundred more still entering. And those who couldn't fit leaned in at the open-air windows, eager to be part of what was taking place.



A Datooga woman at the Bible launch.

This was perhaps the most important event for the Datooga people of Tanzania in a generation: the launch of the New Testament translated into Datooga. On Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, the occasion brought together Tanzanians from all over the country to celebrate an accomplishment that took communal determination and 24 years to complete. They were translators, doctors and generations of families — mostly Datooga tribespeople. Conducting the service were Tanzanian Catholic and Protestant bishops, some donning red and white mitres. They spoke and read Scripture in Swahili, English and Datooga.

To join in this celebration, an American Bible Society team traveled from Nairobi, Kenya, to Dodoma, the arid center and capital of Tanzania where the Bible Society of Tanzania (BSTZ) is headquartered. There they met the Rev. Dr. Mkunga Mtingele, general secretary of the BSTZ, and his colleagues, and added them to the traveling team. The final destination was the church grounds

"I am grateful that I . . . will see my own people hear the Word for themselves in large numbers."

— Pastor Joseph Maho

in a remote area called Basotu, near Lake Basotu. The group arrived early. It was a sunny, blue-skied day that would become quite hot.



The present-generation Olsons at the Datooga Bible launch.

The service began slowly and respectfully with speeches and readings from Scripture. The celebrants read John 3.16 in all three tongues. Halfway through, the white-haired matriarch of a Norwegian family, the Olsons, that came to Tanzania in the early 20th century to set up a missionary hospital, stood and said

to a hushed crowd, "Today I want to say one thing: today the wall is broken." After this, a celebratory cry broke out. All those of the Datooga tribe that she and her family had ministered to at the Haydom Lutheran Hospital, which doubles as the center of the Datooga community, were finally free to learn God's Word and know the one true Lord Jesus Christ.

A Traditional Lifestyle

The Datooga practice a traditional African lifestyle that revolves around the day-to-day feeding of their family and caring for their livestock. Until the first half of the 20th century, the tribe was nomadic, traveling on foot to wherever they could find food and water. By the mid-20th century, the Datooga were settling into family communities from which they would continue to migrate, but return. The animals — cows, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens — are perhaps a family's most important commodity and are held in the highest esteem for their power to sustain life.

At night, the animals are kept in the center of a family's mud and straw hut compound in an improvised cage of Acacia thorns and straw and guarded by dogs. Some families bring their animals inside the huts for the assurance that they are safe.



Inside the Lutheran church near Lake Basotu as the Datooga Bible launch was getting started.



Tanzania and the Datooga

On the coast of East Africa facing the Indian ocean is Tanzania, a country incorporated in 1964 by the joining of mainland Tanganyika and the island of Zanzibar. Three major lakes line the boundaries along the north and west, and in the northeast sits Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa.

Religiously, mainland Tanzania is approximately one-third Muslim, one-third Christian with the rest following indigenous, animist-based African religions. The Bible Society of Tanzania is very active, and in 2009 some 328,000 Bibles were distributed within the country. That amount is expected to rise to 400,000 by the end of 2010.

The total population of 40.5 million people includes more than 132 tribes, or ethnic language groups, and the majority live on the country's periphery. Ironically, the capital Dodoma is in the hot, arid center of the country. In an even more remote town called Haydom, in Mbulu District, is the heart of one of the smallest nomadic tribes, the Datooga. They number some 90,000 to 100,000 people and only exist in Tanzania. The tribe consists of 12 subgroups that speak various dialects but not Swahili or English, the country's official languages.

ALL PHOTOS BY LIZ SMITH; EXCEPT FOR WOMAN IN RED HEAD WRAP BY GREGORY FISHER, HOSANNA MINISTRIES/FCBH.



A partial view of the Datooga alphabet.

Creation of an Alphabet

The work of the Datooga Bible translation began at the very beginning — with the invention of a written Datooga alphabet. In 1985, the process of creating letters and words for what had only been spoken began. This required a careful harmonizing of several Datooga dialects into one language that all Datooga could understand and accept. Working with Datooga locals, two missionaries from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania began the process. Later, in partnership with the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the United Bible Societies, a couple of translation consultants, trained in Hebrew and Greek, went to work on the translation. In all, some 20 Datooga men and women were involved in translating and testing the Datooga New Testament over the 24 years it took to complete.

Datooga Pastor Joseph Maho's Steady Work

One who lasted the whole stretch is the perpetually smiling Pastor Joseph Maho, 59. The day before the launch,

sitting outdoors at a round wooden table under a thatched roof, Joseph, in a quiet but excited voice, spoke about his experience. “Being in the Word every day has been very powerful — to see the power of God at work,” he said.

The beginning work took place in a tiny, one-room building on the grounds of Lake Basotu. That building was used until 2007, when the effects of El Niño caused a flood, rendering the building unusable.

Joseph picked up the work in another office in the village of Basuto. Now he is working on finishing the translation of the Old Testament. Each time he would translate a verse, he said, he would read it back and could feel the Lord helping him do the work of making it right. All through this painstaking process, his key verse was John 15.4b: “A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains on the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.” (GNT) (Realizing the Lord is alive in his Word has been a profound experience.) He said, “I am grateful that I . . . will see my own people hear the Word for themselves in large numbers.” 🌟

God's Word Proclaimed



Inside a Lutheran Church in Getarer, TZ, amid the people of an Iraqw tribe, a Bible listening group gathers to hear God's Word. Recording the Scriptures into audio format so that they can be listened to by non-literate cultures is vital to the spread of the gospel. The Faith Comes By Hearing® Proclaimer™ goes to the remotest corners of the world. It is equipped to run on electricity, battery, solar power and when all else fails, by hand crank.

In this setting this group had started listening when the Proclaimer ran out of energy and had to be placed outside on a rock with its solar panels facing the sun. But it was overcast, and soon a leader brought the Proclaimer back inside and placed it on his lap and began turning the hand crank on the side of the device. Out came the gospel loud and clear for as long as he could crank it.

Gregory Fisher, regional manager for Africa, Hosanna/FCBH, said that they are more than halfway through the recording of the Datooga NT for listening groups.

See the celebration that marks the launch of the Datooga translation. ABSRecord.com/datooga

Calling All Kids

From Garbage City to New Life in Egypt

BY GEOFF MORIN



Girls waving their Kingo flags at a Kingo festival in Cairo.

“Jesus called the children to him and said, Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18.16 (GNT)

The first thing that strikes you is the volume — the sound of thousands of children singing and clapping, as more and more stream in. For a moment, the heat and grime of the surrounding shantytown are forgotten. The amazing power of God's Word unleashes a palpable joy.

Welcome to Egypt's Kingo Festival, here at the heart of Cairo's Garbage City.

Rising from the Dump

Garbage City is not the first place you'd look to find this sort of radiant joy. Home to more than 40,000 people, Garbage City has scant running water and electricity. Its dirty and dust-blown streets are impossibly narrow. Donkey-drawn carts jockey with heavily laden, diesel trucks. People step carefully and quickly, picking a path between piled trash and running sewage.

Garbage City residents are known as the “Zabbaleen” (garbage collectors). They live and work in multifamily

shanties packed into crowded blocks. Each dwelling is stacked two and three stories high, with a large first-floor room open for business — piled wall-to-wall with trash. Crouched over each day's newly collected refuse, whole families are at work — men lifting and bagging the trash, women separating cans, children sorting out plastics, all seeking any reusable and resalable items.

The work is grim, grimy and slow. It is the job of those doing whatever it takes to feed families and children in one of Cairo's poorest neighborhoods.

Can't Lose our Kids

But there is another story here in Garbage City. In a place where an entire city has dumped its trash, God has raised up a vital Christian community. And for the children here, the highlight of the year may well be the Kingo Festivals of the Bible Society of Egypt (BSE).

Word of mouth is all it takes. With no more than a few days' notice, more than 2,000 children are streaming toward the community's cave turned church. Using an original Scripture video series created by the American Bible Society, BSE has now transformed this Bible-based curriculum into a traveling Christian outreach festival for Egypt's children.

The host for these events is Kingo, a loveable lion character, on stage in life-size costume, who has now become what General Secretary Ramez Atallah calls "Egypt's Bible rock star." But more than a celebrity, Kingo plays a vital role. "[Kingo] provides what we need," says Ramez, "a way to keep our children strongly linked to Christ. Without that, we could lose many of our kids."



Egyptian boy with his Kingo flag.

Demand is Growing

Hours of back-breaking setting up of equipment, days of practicing drama and songs, weeks of liaising with local groups and a continuous cycle of planning is the huge effort the Bible Society of Egypt puts into staging a Kingo children's event. But so are the results: Across the country, children who otherwise have little contact with God's

Word are encountering positive biblical messages and are learning to apply Christian principles to their own lives. So, too, are their families.

In 2005, a trial run saw 15,000 children attend live Kingo events. The combination of drama, singing, puppets, storytelling, quizzes and an ultraviolet light show, along with a Kingo flag to wave and a cassette of Kingo songs to take home, proved more popular than anybody at the Bible Society or its partner churches and

"There is a great and wonderful God who knows me and loves me deeply. I am not forgotten."

organizations could have imagined. And demand continues to rise.

"The Kingo events are often a celebration for the entire community, not just the children," says Dr. Ehab Tanas, director of Sales and Church Relations. "Whole families come together and people open their homes and hearts to us. They are so grateful for what we are doing for their children."



Kingo on stage.

Gospel Opportunities

Here in Garbage City — and in tents and churches and warehouses across Egypt — Kingo leads an action-packed hour of songs, stories, skits and dancing. As the stories of God's Word are vividly brought to life, eyes widen and smiles shine. By the final song, the overall message has pierced each child's heart: "There is a great and wonderful God who knows me and loves me deeply. I am not forgotten."

Before leaving, each child is given his/her own Scripture resources and an invitation to continue learning and growing in ongoing discipleship opportunities with local churches. This past summer alone, more than 140,000 children were reached through dozens of events, now happening all across Egypt.

But this audience is still only a fraction of the children of this predominantly Muslim nation. As Ramez describes, "I have always been the sort of person who looks at a glass as half full. If you can't go through a door — find a window. Right now, we can't keep up with the opportunities." 🌟

Meet the Children of Garbage City



Watch Egypt's Kingo Festival where children learn about biblical characters and values.

ABSRecord.com/kingo

Quiet Time

"And I will be with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b (GNT)

APRIL 2010

- 1 **Luke** 22.39-71
HOLY THURSDAY
- 2 **Luke** 23.1-49
GOOD FRIDAY
- 3 **Luke** 23.50-56
- 4 **Luke** 24.1-12
EASTER SUNDAY
- 5 **Luke** 24.13-35
- 6 **Luke** 24.36-53
- 7 **Romans** 3.19-31
- 8 **Romans** 4.1-12
- 9 **Romans** 4.13-25
- 10 **Romans** 5.1-11
- 11 **Romans** 5.12-21
- 12 **Romans** 6.1-14
- 13 **Romans** 6.15-23
- 14 **1 Corinthians** 15.1-34
- 15 **1 Corinthians** 15.35-58
- 16 **2 Corinthians** 1.1-11
- 17 **2 Corinthians** 2.5-17
- 18 **2 Corinthians** 3.1-18
- 19 **2 Corinthians** 4.1-15
- 20 **2 Corinthians** 4.16—5.10
- 21 **2 Corinthians** 5.11—6.13
- 22 **2 Corinthians** 6.14—7.16
- 23 **Ephesians** 1.1-23
- 24 **Ephesians** 2.1-22
- 25 **Ephesians** 3.1-21
- 26 **Ephesians** 4.1-16
- 27 **Ephesians** 4.17-32
- 28 **Ephesians** 5.1-20
- 29 **Ephesians** 5.21—6.4
- 30 **Ephesians** 6.10-24

MAY 2010

- 1 **Romans** 8.1-17
- 2 **Romans** 8.18-39
- 3 **Romans** 12.1-21
- 4 **Romans** 13.1-14
- 5 **Romans** 14.1-23
- 6 **Psalm** 80
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
- 7 **Romans** 15.1-13
- 8 **John** 14.1-14
- 9 **John** 14.15-31
- 10 **John** 15.1-17
- 11 **John** 15.18—16.15
- 12 **John** 16.16-33
- 13 **Acts** 1.1-11
ASCENSION DAY
- 14 **Acts** 1.12-26
- 15 **Ezekiel** 1.1-28
- 16 **Ezekiel** 2.1-10
- 17 **Ezekiel** 3.1-15
- 18 **Ezekiel** 3.16-27
- 19 **Ezekiel** 36.1-15
- 20 **Ezekiel** 36.16-38
- 21 **Ezekiel** 37.1-14
- 22 **Joel** 2.28—3.8
- 23 **Acts** 2.1-13
PENTECOST SUNDAY
- 24 **Acts** 2.14-28
- 25 **Acts** 2.29-47
- 26 **Acts** 3.1-10
- 27 **Acts** 3.11-26
- 28 **Acts** 4.1-22
- 29 **Acts** 4.23-37
- 30 **Acts** 5.1-16
- 31 **Acts** 5.17-42

JUNE 2010

- 1 **Hebrews** 3.1-19
- 2 **Hebrews** 4.1-13
- 3 **Hebrews** 4.14—5.10
- 4 **Hebrews** 5.11—6.12
- 5 **Hebrews** 6.13—7.10
- 6 **Hebrews** 7.11-28
- 7 **Hebrews** 8.1-13
- 8 **Hebrews** 9.1-22
- 9 **Hebrews** 9.23—10.18
- 10 **Hebrews** 10.19-39
- 11 **Genesis** 9.1-17
- 12 **Genesis** 15.1-21
- 13 **Exodus** 19.1-25
- 14 **Exodus** 20.1-21
- 15 **Exodus** 23.20-33
- 16 **Exodus** 24.1-18
- 17 **Deuteronomy** 29.1-29
- 18 **Deuteronomy** 30.1-20
- 19 **Deuteronomy** 31.1-29
- 20 **Deuteronomy** 31.30—32.18
- 21 **Deuteronomy** 32.19-44
- 22 **Deuteronomy** 32.45—33.5
- 23 **Joshua** 1.1-18
- 24 **Joshua** 2.1-24
- 25 **Joshua** 3.1-17
- 26 **Joshua** 4.1-24
- 27 **Joshua** 23.1-16
- 28 **2 Samuel** 7.1-17
- 29 **2 Samuel** 7.18-29
- 30 **Psalm** 89.1-37

Quiet Time

“My help will come from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121.2 (GNT)

JULY 2010

- 1 **Genesis** 13.1-18
- 2 **Genesis** 18.16-33
- 3 **Genesis** 22.1-19
- 4 **Genesis** 32.1-21
- 5 **Genesis** 33.1-20
- 6 **Exodus** 13.3-22
- 7 **Exodus** 14.1-31
- 8 **Exodus** 15.1-18
- 9 **Exodus** 15.19-27
- 10 **Exodus** 16.1-12
- 11 **Exodus** 16.13-36
- 12 **Exodus** 17.1-7
- 13 **Leviticus** 16.1-19
- 14 **Leviticus** 16.20-34
- 15 **Isaiah** 40.1-31
- 16 **Isaiah** 41.1-20
- 17 **Isaiah** 42.1-17
- 18 **Isaiah** 43.1-28
- 19 **Jeremiah** 30.1-24
- 20 **Jeremiah** 31.1-22
- 21 **Jeremiah** 31.23-40
- 22 **Matthew** 18.21-35
- 23 **Luke** 13.10-30
- 24 **Luke** 14.1-14
- 25 **Luke** 15.1-10
- 26 **Luke** 15.11-32
- 27 **John** 8.1-20
- 28 **John** 10.1-21
- 29 **John** 10.22-42
- 30 **Philemon**
- 31 **Psalms** 103

AUGUST 2010

- 1 **Philippians** 1.1-30
- 2 **Philippians** 2.1-18
- 3 **Philippians** 2.19—3.11
- 4 **Philippians** 3.12-21
- 5 **Philippians** 4.1-23
- 6 **1 Thessalonians** 1.1-10
- 7 **1 Thessalonians** 2.1-16
- 8 **1 Thessalonians** 2.17—3.13
- 9 **1 Thessalonians** 4.1-18
- 10 **1 Thessalonians** 5.1-28
- 11 **2 Thessalonians** 1.1-12
- 12 **2 Thessalonians** 2.1-17
- 13 **2 Thessalonians** 3.1-18
- 14 **1 Timothy** 1.1-20
- 15 **1 Timothy** 2.1-15
- 16 **1 Timothy** 3.1-16
- 17 **1 Timothy** 4.1-16
- 18 **1 Timothy** 5.1—6.2a
- 19 **1 Timothy** 6.2b-21
- 20 **2 Timothy** 1.1-18
- 21 **2 Timothy** 2.1-13
- 22 **2 Timothy** 2.14-26
- 23 **2 Timothy** 3.1-17
- 24 **2 Timothy** 4.1-22
- 25 **Titus** 1.1-16
- 26 **Titus** 2.1-15
- 27 **Titus** 3.1-15
- 28 **Hebrews** 11.1-19
- 29 **Hebrews** 11.20-40
- 30 **Hebrews** 12.1-11
- 31 **Hebrews** 12.12-29

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 1 **Genesis** 40.1-23
- 2 **Genesis** 41.1-16
- 3 **Genesis** 41.17-36
- 4 **Genesis** 41.37-57
- 5 **Job** 32.1-22
- 6 **Job** 33.1-33
- 7 **Job** 34.1-37
- 8 **Job** 35.1—36.4
- 9 **Job** 36.5-33
- 10 **Job** 37.1-24
- 11 **Psalms** 1
- 12 **Psalms** 19
- 13 **1 Corinthians** 1.1-17
- 14 **1 Corinthians** 1.18-31
- 15 **1 Corinthians** 2.1-16
- 16 **1 Corinthians** 3.1-23
- 17 **Luke** 12.1-12
- 18 **Luke** 12.13-31
- 19 **Luke** 12.32-48
- 20 **Luke** 16.1-13
- 21 **Luke** 16.14-31
- 22 **Proverbs** 1.1-33
- 23 **Proverbs** 2.1-22
- 24 **Proverbs** 3.1-35
- 25 **Ecclesiastes** 3.1-15
- 26 **James** 1.1-27
- 27 **James** 2.1-26
- 28 **James** 3.1-18
- 29 **James** 4.1-17
- 30 **James** 5.1-20

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Please Pray

We invite you to focus your prayers on countries around the world where there is unrest, physical hardship and persecution.

“Let those who live in distant lands give praise and glory to the LORD.”
 Isaiah 42.12 (GNT)



Pastor Joab leads an audio Scriptures listening group praying in *Chigogo*, their heart language, at a church, in Nala village, central Tanzania.

Chile

We thank God for our work in rehabilitation centers and schools, and we hope the annual regional collection that funds social projects will soon become a national initiative. We're grateful that we can now put publications about our new literacy project in supermarkets. Please pray for our current translation projects, particularly for funding the Old Testament *Romani* translation.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Praise God for his guidance in helping us complete the *Kiluba* Bible translation. Pray for our ongoing translation work and for the ministries of Faith Comes By Hearing®, literacy, HIV and AIDS. Fighting continues in the east of the country where the prevalence of rape and other sexual violence is described as the worst

in the world. Please pray for lasting peace in this part of DRC, as well as the safekeeping of all our citizens. We also ask for God's blessing on our collaboration with other Christian organizations, including grant-making Bible Societies.

Nicaragua

We give thanks for the success of our street children project that's blessing nearly 40,000 of them with Scripture Portions. Pray for funding so that we can continue our projects and reach more people with Christ's message. In addition, please pray for the printing of the *Miskito* Bible. Pray also that God will show the government how to bring peace, justice and prosperity to our country.

Papua New Guinea

Through our Prison Literacy project, long-term prisoners are being trained

as literacy teachers and are sharing their skills with other inmates and the local community. They also are translating Bible booklets into local languages to use in schools. Thankfully, this material is being embraced by the government. The Lord is opening doors everywhere. Please join us in thanking him for all he has offered our small nation.

Tanzania

Praise God that many churches marked the 2009 United Bible Societies' day of prayer. We thank him for the distribution of 5,000 Maasai Bibles, the Faith Comes By Hearing® and Good Samaritan programs, as well as the launches of the translations of the *Datooga* and *Kibebe* New Testaments. Please pray for the impact of these Bibles and New Testaments, funding for our HIV and AIDS work, the publication of the *Sukuma* Bible, the launch of the *Kinyiramba* New Testament and church involvement in literacy programs.

Ukraine

This is a time of increased political turmoil and economic struggle. Please pray that the distrust, frustration and problems in our society can be overcome as people are brought to hope through God's Word. We thank him for the completion of all the documentation required for building our Bible House in Kiev, and we ask his blessings on the start of the construction.



In Memoriam

"This God is our God forever and ever; he will lead us for all time to come."
Psalm 48.14 (GNT)

Alan Boardman

GIVEN BY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ITHACA

MY MOTHER,

LOUISE V. FLESSNER

GIVEN BY DAVID H. FLESSNER

HELEN M. HAHN

GIVEN BY HELEN M. AND HARRY O. HAHN
FUND OF THE BERKS COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MY WIFE MARY, MY SON JAMES
AND MY DAUGHTER JENNIFER

GIVEN BY MR. LOREN KENDALL HARPER

MY WIFE,

GLORIA R. HEISS

GIVEN BY WILLIAM E. HEISS

RUTH CHASTAIN HULSEY

GIVEN BY MR. F. HALL REYNOLDS II

MY FATHER,

REV. KENNETH P. MACDONALD

GIVEN BY MRS. HELEN ELIZABETH BEATTIE

MY HUSBAND,

LEONARD L. MEYER

GIVEN BY MRS. DOROTHY E. MEYER

MY HUSBAND,

REV. RAYMOND D. MORELOCK

GIVEN BY MRS. JESSIE E. MORELOCK

MY PARENTS,

JOAN L. NICOLSON AND
GARTH F. NICOLSON

GIVEN BY MR. GERALD AND
MRS. MARY NICOLSON DURBIN

FANNIE R. AND ROBERT C. POOLEY

GIVEN BY THE FANNIE R. POOLEY REVOCABLE TRUST

REV. RAYMOND M. RODEN

GIVEN BY MR. D. DWAYNE ANDERSON

JAMES RUPERT

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MY HUSBAND,

HANS H. SCHAFFT

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Poet and songwriter Edna Massimilla (pictured), in her early 90s, first learned about the American Bible Society through her father's contributions. She says, *"it seems to be a family theme,"* and is still connecting the gospel to people across the world. Her poem, "Heaven's Very Special Child," is widely known; her new book of the same title has now also been released.

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