

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

Winter 2011

God's Word Deployed

Mozambique's Good Samaritan

The Beauty of God's Word
Rediscovered

Near the Heart of Urban Youth



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

ABSRecord.com

No Stopping Love

“A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, ‘Wonderful Counselor,’ ‘Mighty God,’ ‘Eternal Father,’ ‘Prince of Peace.’”

Isaiah 9.6 (GNT)

There is a piece in the Christmas narrative that catches me every year. It is the blazing message, shouted across the night sky and declared by a babe in a cattle trough — love will not be stopped.



With all the flash and flurry of our holidays, this still remains the central declaration and hope of Christmas — that the “Word becomes flesh” (John 1.1), a “son is given to us” (Isaiah 9.6), God’s love comes to us and will not be stopped.

We have been given such a precious gift, one we must not keep to ourselves. Especially in this holiday season, I am so very aware of those who remain waiting to read and discover this same story for themselves. For so many facing hunger, isolation, and fear — God’s Word provides the answers and hope they need.

I think especially of those men and women spending this Christmas far away from loved ones as they serve and protect the freedoms we enjoy. My prayers also reach out for those in places of danger, loneliness and loss. For each and all of these men, women and children, let’s join together to bring a strong and resounding Christmas message — God’s love will not be stopped.

Thank you again and again for all that you do to help bring the living Word of God to so many. On behalf of our staff family, my wife Vickie and myself, may you enjoy the full and unending joy of Christ this Christmas.

Yours Gratefully,

R. Lamar Vest



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The mission of American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message. 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.

Published since 1818, *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of American Bible Society and the second-oldest continuously published publication in the United States. It is published three times a year 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* article, but prior written permission must be obtained from *American Bible Society Record* to reproduce any images. Publications reprinting the text of a *Record* article must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the *Record* at 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.



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Record

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Mailbag

Civil War Bible: A Family Treasure

Dear Record Editor:

I have been in the process of doing some housecleaning chores — specifically cleaning out our basement. Among other things to be pitched were some magazines, but I decided to take a last look before doing so.

One was the Fall 2009 Record. As I thumbed through, I noticed an article I had missed dealing with a query regarding American Bible Society pocket Bibles given out during the Civil War. Being a history buff, I ripped it out and set it aside to read when I had a better moment.

When I sat down to read it, I immediately thought of a small pocket Bible that had belonged to my great-great-grandfather Willem DeYoung and decided to see if it might possibly be one of those distributed during the war. As I opened the worn cover, I was ecstatic to read the words “American Bible Society, 1863.” In addition, inscribed in pencil were the words: “Father carried this through the war.”

I am so grateful for the research American Bible Society has done, which has made this family treasure even more meaningful. It is wonderful to know this is one of the 5,297,832 Scriptures that gave troops some hope in an otherwise terrible war. It also brings to mind those who are now serving in the Middle East. Needless to say, the article has now joined the family treasure.

Sincerely,
Jon Frye
Jamestown, Ohio

National Update

One Teen at a Time



Marvin Olasky, *World* magazine; honoree Mark Nelson; and Simon Barnes, ABS, at the Sept. 16 event at Bible House, from left to right.

“The next generation will be God’s tool for shaping the world,” said David Kinnaman, president of The Barna Research Group, at the *Embodying Hope* dinner hosted by American Bible Society and *World* magazine in September. “And our job is to care for them, prepare them for the task ahead.”

With that said, Marvin Olasky, editor-in-chief of *World* magazine, and Simon Barnes, an executive vice president of ABS, gave the HOPE Award to Mark Nelson, honoring the work by Freedom for Youth in Des Moines, Iowa.

Disturbing Deficit

“Today’s [Sept. 28] research report from The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life exposes a deficit in religious knowledge among a majority of Americans,” said ABS President R. Lamar Vest.

He continued, “Particularly disturbing was the lack of knowledge among self-professed Christians about the Christian faith. Jewish adherents actually had a better awareness of the Bible and Christianity than did Christians.”

“The Bible — the most-translated and best-selling book of all time — has informed centuries of literature, government, philosophy and social behavior. Beyond the hope and encouragement it offers, a basic knowledge of the Bible is essential for understanding and appreciating much of Western culture. American Bible Society is working to increase access to the Bible here at home and around the world so that all can experience its life-changing message.”

The Least of These

Regular encounters with God through the Scriptures is the catalyst for significant personal life change.



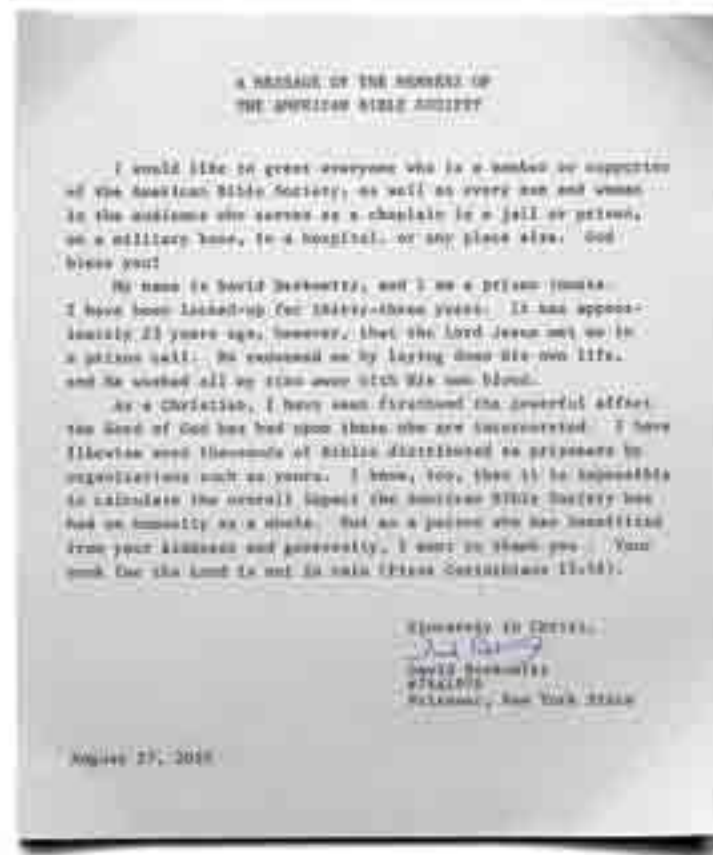
Bible Sunday: The Least of These is an essential tool for church congregations to begin their own habits of daily engagement with Scripture.

Bible Sunday takes churches on a 40-day journey on the theme of poverty and justice. The *Bible Sunday* toolkit provides pastors with everything they need to help their people take God at his Word and become agents of compassion for the oppressed.

To sign up your church for *Bible Sunday*, visit MyBibleSunday.org

Reformed ‘Son of Sam’ Addresses ABS

American Bible Society’s God Sets You Free™ program hosted a Correctional Chaplain Conference in August at which the life-sentence inmate, David Berkowitz, was permitted to address those in attendance with the personal letter shown below.



Bible Talk Tuesday



ABS staff handing out invitations to Bible Talk Tuesday on Broadway.

Starting Tuesdays in October, American Bible Society is welcoming New Yorkers off the street into



a noontime reading and discussion of God’s Word. In the spirit of the Fulton Street Revival more than 150 years ago, people may eat their lunch while feasting on the nourishment of a Bible passage.

Please join us if you’re in the area at Broadway and 61st Street.



Eddie’s Story

Eddie grew up without a father and survived multiple rapes by family members. In high school, he got into street drugs to ease his emotional pain but was trying to break the habit. One day, he and his sister were driving on a freeway, and he had his sister stop the car. He got out and jumped down from the overpass onto the freeway entrance below. Much to his amazement, he survived without injury. Later, after recounting the incident to a school administrator, Eddie prayed and accepted Jesus Christ. After this, Eddie was able to grow beyond his upbringing and become a leader for other young people.

Leadership Training Ministries and American Bible Society are partnering to train Latino young people and their parents across the United States in Scripture-based relationship and leadership skills.

To watch his story, visit: ABSRecord.com/eddie

Photo by Rebecca Detrick; Video still by Eliu Cornielle.

Homeless . . . but not Hopeless



ABS staff Donald Cavanaugh and Delores Burnett flank honoree Edward H. Morgan, Jr., of The Bowery Mission, with ABS staff Emilio A. Reyes and Robert L. Briggs, left to right.

“The Bowery Mission has a gem in Ed Morgan as their leader. Ed’s passion for the Bible and its ability to impact the lives of the beneficiaries of the program is evident in all that he does,” said Emilio A. Reyes, vice

president of Outreach for American Bible Society, a partner of The Bowery Mission. In September, ABS honored Edward H. Morgan, Jr., president and CEO of The Bowery Mission, for his outstanding work in ministry to the homeless of New York City, with its Christian Leadership Award.

Photo by Rebecca Detrick; photo by Drew Segawa.

International Update



Omar Reygadas was the 17th miner brought up. After breathing fresh air for the first time in 70 days, he did not hesitate to thank God for saving his life.

Chile 33 Men Saved: Hope in the Belly of the Earth

One rescued miner, Carlos Mamani, had written on the front of the uniform used to carry him through the escape duct: “Thank you Lord,” and on his back was written verse 4 of Psalm 95, which begins: “He rules over the whole earth, from the deepest caves . . .”

Since the beginning of this odyssey, the Bible Society of Chile kept firm to its mandate of making the Bible available to every person, in every circumstance. First, to family members and friends and then to the miners, who all received not only a small contemporary American Bible Society *Reina-Valera* New Testament but also Bible Portions that were able to fit through the communication tube. These resources helped them face adversity.

Another one of the rescued miners, Jimmy Sanchez, the youngest at 19 years old, wrote on a note that he was able to send through the communication tube: “In reality, there are 34 of us because God never abandoned us below.”

China A Hunger to Read Still Learning at 80



Teacher Zhang points out a difficult Chinese word from Matthew 11.

Thousands of rural villagers, including an 80-year-old man in teacher Zhang’s class, are learning to read by attending Scripture literacy classes. Since 2006, seven rounds of classes have been conducted, training some 25,000 villagers across rural Henan to read the Chinese Bible. “The response for these classes was overwhelming,” said one of the Scripture literacy teachers,

Ms. Zhang. “The majority of these students were women and older folks who have had little or no formal education at all. As we progressed, their attentiveness in class, diligence and hunger for learning touched my heart so much that they spurred me on toward giving my best in teaching.”

India In a Land of Many Languages Seekers Exposed to God’s Word

Of the total population in India, 80.5 percent are Hindu, 13.4 percent Muslim and 2.3 percent are Christian. There are 22 official languages and countless others in a primarily oral culture with low literacy rates. As people of different faiths search for truth and purpose in

life, audio-visual Scripture resources in their own languages are critically needed. The Bible Society of India alongside ABS has embarked on a five-year project to fulfill this need. They expect to benefit 30,000 people with exposure to a loving God, his plan of salvation and the teachings of the Bible.

Korea Half the World is Under 25 Highlights from the UBS World Assembly



Youth Assembly delegates expressed themselves through drama at the UBS World Assembly in Seoul.

The eighth United Bible Societies World Assembly was held in

September in South Korea. It was the occasion to welcome the Rev. Dr. Robert Cunville as the new UBS President, who will serve until the next World Assembly gathering in Brazil 2016.

According to United Nations statistics, half the world’s population is under 25, and that demographic was reflected at this event. Twenty International Youth Assembly delegates representing 17 countries, and another 20 from the host country, were on hand to provide their perspective.

American Bible Society presented a Bible Search tool that enables website visitors to find Scriptures in a variety of translations. At the Assembly, ABS proposed digitizing the Scriptures in as many languages as have translations and making them accessible in a Bible Search tool accessible to all Bible Societies.

Pakistan Grateful After the Flood



A village elder in Rangpur (seated, left) lays hands on Anthony Lamuel, general secretary of PBS.

In July, survivors of the worst flooding in 80 years received Scriptures and food provided by the Pakistan Bible Society (PBS). The Bible Society conducted its ministry of relief work from a base camp in Multan, in central Punjab.

South Africa Scripture in Mission at Lausanne



Ramez Atallah, general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt.

Ramez Atallah is one of several Bible Society leaders who gave voice to the global conversation that took place in Cape Town in October. Ramez chaired the program committee that organized the plenaries, workshops, seminars, discussion groups, and opening and closing ceremonies for the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism. The Congress brought together 4,000 Christian leaders from more than 200 countries. Scripture in Mission was a key topic addressed.

Join the discussion at <http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/home/scripture-in-mission>

Spain Leading Linguists



In 1943, Eugene Nida joined the staff of American Bible Society, serving as a linguist. He has been a

pioneer in translation theory. The Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship, a ministry of ABS, continues his legacy.

American Bible Society’s *Nida School of Translation Studies*, held in June in Murcia, Spain, focused on “Translation and Cognition,” gathering 75 leaders in the field of translation today.

Suriname Children’s Bible Content



The cover of *Make-Your-Own Children’s Bible* in Suriname Dutch.

American Bible Society has broken new ground in directing international support for a new Bible Society in Nickerie, the second largest city in Suriname, near the border of Guyana.

The Suriname Bible Society is distributing 10,000 copies of the *Make-Your-Own Children’s Bible* to Sunday Schools and children’s clubs across the country. The best drawings will be featured in a new Children’s Bible.

For more stories from around the world, visit: ABSRecord.com

Photo courtesy of The Bible Society of Chile. Photo courtesy of UBS/China Partnership; photo by Daud Soesilo.

Photo courtesy of Pakistan Bible Society; photo courtesy of Bible Society of Egypt. Photo by Robert Hodgson; photo courtesy of Suriname Bible Society.



God's Word Deployed

For the American Military Family

By Matthew Grewe

Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, "You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust."

Psalm 91.1, 2 (GNT)

A young lieutenant graduated from the Naval Academy and found himself quickly deployed in the Middle East. It's hard to describe the sudden transition from civilian to sailor. Now, under attack two or three times every day, he reported, "I was just reeling every day, feeling like if I didn't read my Bible and a little devotional, I didn't know if I would make it through one more day."

After his unit survived a dangerous ambush, he was able to show his fellow soldiers how God was watching over them — even those who had earlier claimed "there is no God in Iraq."



The combat veteran's garbled voicemail message sounded distraught. His name and telephone number were unclear, but the chaplain could tell he intended suicide.

Alarmed, a military chaplain scrambled to identify and call the veteran, and was relieved to find him calm and safe. In his dark hour, the veteran had turned to an American Bible Society booklet of Scriptures for comfort. "I just started reading it cover to cover, over and over," he said, "and I could hear God speaking to me. I could hear God telling me that I was worthwhile, that I should not take my life, that he understood deeply my pain and that he was walking with me."

A New Kind of War

Today's war significantly stretches even the best among us. As the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have become the longest wars in American history, the men and women of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines face ongoing danger, stress and separation from their loved ones and communities.

"When military personnel return from Afghanistan or Iraq or any of the 80 countries where we have boots on the ground, they are not the same," says American Bible Society

Armed Services Ministry's Acting Director, Dr. John Edgar Caterson. They have "needs that have come about because they have experienced combat or trauma." These wounds affect veterans but extend to their families and loved ones as well.

The stories above show the urgency of these needs, but also shows that God's Word brings safety and healing to men and women in pain. To help meet the spiritual needs of the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, ABS has provided troops with hundreds of thousands of Bibles and Scripture materials, as it has done for American service members for nearly two centuries.

Holding It All Together

John Edgar says the length and nature of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a need for Bibles, but also “brought up issues like post-traumatic stress disorder” and other types of emotional and spiritual suffering. “It’s become imperative that we are not just the providers of Scripture, but collaborate with the chaplain corps



Keith Travis, retired Army chaplain, uses Scripture resources provided by Armed Services Ministry, American Bible Society.

to provide scriptural resources that will bring about life change.” Accordingly, the Armed Services Ministry has partnered with military chaplains to develop and deliver Scripture materials designed specifically for active duty troops, veterans and military families.

One outcome of these efforts — the “God Understands” series — is the source of the Scripture booklet that so encouraged the distressed veteran in his time of trouble.

“The series (*God Understands*) is so potent in all its topics that it will surely bring about healing in whatever part of these veterans’ lives needs addressing.”
—Tennessee Chaplain

The “God Understands” series resulted from the joint efforts of ABS and chaplains from the Veterans Affairs National Chaplain Center. Each of the series’ eight Portions speak to a specific “spiritual injury” suffered by troops, whether active duty or veteran, including grief, guilt, anger, hopelessness and fear of death. Scripture Portions are followed by reflection questions and real-life stories coming from chaplains who counsel service veterans and interact with their families and medical caregivers every day.

Grappling with difficult emotions in light of Scripture provides a

healing outlet for soldiers who can be forced to stifle emotion to hold it all together. One chaplain says of the active duty soldiers he accompanied on patrol: “I listened to their voice and watched their eyes — they know they’re in a dangerous situation. What they do, they turn that stuff off — they turn off the emotion inside that for normal folks would say ‘I ain’t going out there.’ But they go out there and say, ‘I’m not going to think

about it. I’m going to do the job at hand regardless of what the personal danger to me is going to be.’ ”

It is a powerful testimony of God’s Word applied to challenges many of us cannot even begin to understand. Day after day and through multiple deployments, the chaplain says, this defense against trauma “makes an impact on them. You can only do that so many times before something inside begins to deaden.” The “God Understands” series helps soldiers see God’s love for them and his presence with them while facing emotional and spiritual wounds received over years of trauma or combat.



As one Tennessee chaplain described this program in action, he is clear that God’s Word indeed holds the answers for so many of the questions and challenges facing our veterans. “There were tears, stories, confessions, connections and nods of agreement during scenarios and Scripture readings. The series is so potent in all its topics that it will surely bring about healing in whatever part of these veterans’ lives needs addressing.”

ReZilient Life for Military Teens

Nearly 1.1 million teens have parents who serve in the military. While there are universal struggles and challenges common to life as a teenager, these sons and daughters face theirs in an environment of constant change and uncertainty.

The Armed Services Ministry of American Bible Society, in partnership with Military Community Youth Ministries (MCYM), is preparing to introduce *ReZilient Life*, a Bible engagement program that seeks to help military teens confidently address common challenges, made unique by their military context — challenges such as friendships, identity, family, transitions and being alone.

Web-based *ReZilient Life* provides customizable Scripture journeys that address these issues from a biblical perspective. This site includes unique small and large group resources for MCYM youth leaders located on military installations around the world. In this way, these youth can experience the transformative power of the Bible and community among supportive friends who can relate to their experiences.

Introducing James Puchy



Chaplain (COL) James J. Puchy, now retired from the Pentagon where he served as the Commandant of the Army Chief of Chaplains’ Office, is executive director of American Bible Society’s Armed Services Ministry.

Chaplain Puchy is uniquely positioned to respond to the complex realities brought about by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He will shepherd a ministry to meet the critical spiritual needs of our nation’s military.

Chaplain Puchy reminds us, “It is not simply 2 million that have been deployed nor 24 million veterans . . . it is fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles of active duty and retired military. It is a people group of more than 100 million people — that is a third of our nation . . . it is a mission field we should care about!”



**American Bible Society
A History of Serving Those Who Serve**

For 193 years (1817-2010) and through nine wars, ABS has provided Scriptures to millions of men and women in the U.S. armed forces.

1817
Bibles go to the crew of the USS John Adams.

1846 – 1848
MEXICAN WAR
Both the American forces and Mexican civilians are supplied.



1861 – 1865
CIVIL WAR
5,297,832 Scriptures go to both North and South.

1898
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
75,000 Scriptures deployed.

1917 – 1918
WORLD WAR I
6,387,943 Scriptures sent to the troops of several nations.

1941 – 1945
WORLD WAR II
7,420,910 Scriptures deployed.

Photo by Throwinglight.com.

Back from Soldier to Civilian

Veterans changed by their service in Iraq and Afghanistan must find “a new normal,” John Edgar says. “You can’t go back to life before deployment, before traumatic stress, but you have to move on.” To help with this transition, the *Engage Your Strengths*™ materials were developed in tandem with the Gallup Faith Practice’s StrengthsFinder™ assessment. This 67-page resource book links the promises of Scripture with the strengths and gifts for chaplains, service members and their families to identify an individual’s strengths and show examples of these abilities found in Scripture.

Engage Your Strengths shows individual veterans and retiring service members the ways of working, thinking and relating to others at which they excel. The program has been provided to every U.S. Army Chaplain and Chaplain Assistant (nearly 300 in total), and they are using it as they guide soldiers transitioning to life and work in all the stages of military service.

Learning more about the strength of applying God’s Word to personal gift deployment, this resource was recently expanded for usage by the larger military family. In November, a special edition of *Engage Your Strengths* was debuted for the Protestant Women of the Chapel, a global prayer network of women

supporting our nation’s military, making it available for extended usage for more members of the larger military community.

A Path Through God’s Big Story

Those same chaplain leaders have given their official support to another important new Scripture tool that ABS developed, in partnership with Scripture Union USA, called “The Essential One Hundred,” (E100). Chris Thyberg, director, New Ministry Initiatives, says the Bible can seem “rather intimidating” to those unfamiliar with it: “It’s 1,000-plus pages, they don’t know where to begin, so it just sits there and gathers dust.” The E100 leads readers through the broad story of the Bible with 50 key passages from both the Old and New Testaments. The Military E100 was later developed with U.S. Military Chaplains.

These E100 resources reach soldiers and help keep families connected. Using online resources, far-apart families can work on the same Bible devotion together. Anne LoCastro, program manager, says chaplains are reporting, “We’ve got guys, gals who would never attend a Bible study, never come to chapel, but we started doing the E100 and they’ve become regulars.” Service members are “now forming their own E100 squads — out in Afghanistan, out in Iraq, where a chaplain really can’t even get to them regularly.

“Together they’re walking through the E100 journey, and they’re reporting that it’s just opened up Scriptures to them like never before.” The E100 Plan is now printed inside every ABS military Bible. Anne continues, “This is huge — this means that whether troops are introduced to E100 formally by their chaplains or get a Bible from

us, they have that essential path through God’s big story and can find themselves in the color-highlighted passages, reflection questions and prayers.”

Strength to Serve

Reading materials other than the Scriptures may help fill long hours of tension and boredom in the field, but they “are not going to feed that spiritual need” of the troops, says Les Knotts, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.). “When it comes time for protection or speaking into somebody else’s life, you don’t use *National Geographic* for that. Scripture is an ideal source for that, and if you don’t have any in you, it can’t come out.”

Service members with hearts changed by God’s Word are given the strength they need to serve. “As the Scriptures bring healing and hope to active duty and veteran soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, they create a legacy of life and faith for the future,” says John Edgar.

It’s a legacy well worth the investment. When distributing Bibles to Marines as they deploy, Ralph Porter of Twentynine Palms Ministries, tells them, “Take this with you to Afghanistan. When you come back, give it to your son or daughter and say, ‘This Bible went to Afghanistan with your dad.’”



Home for the Holidays Tour
 Christian singing group Point of Grace is dedicating its Christmas tour to the men and women of the military and American Bible Society’s Armed Services Ministry. Join us!
www.pointofgrace.net/tour

12/2/2010
 Grace Church
 Eden Prairie, Minn.

12/3/2010
 Grand Rapids First
 Wyoming, Mich.

12/4/2010
 Grace Point Church
 of the Nazarene
 Fort Wayne, Ind.

12/5/2010
 Macomb Center
 for the Performing Arts
 Clinton Township, Mich.

12/9/2010
 First Baptist Church
 Benton, Ark.

12/10/2010
 World Outreach Church
 Murfreesboro, Tenn.

12/11/2010
 Tuscarora Inn and
 Conference Center
 Mt Bethel, Pa.

12/12/2010
 First Baptist Church
 Bossier City, La.

12/15/2010
 Crosspoint
 Community Church
 Oconomowoc, Wis.

12/16/2010
 St. Matthews Church
 Glendale Heights, Ill.

12/17/2010
 Hippodrome Theatre
 Baltimore, Md.

12/18/2010
 The Billy Graham
 Training Center
 Asheville, N.C.

12/19/2010
 North Side Baptist Church
 Greenwood, S.C.



1950 – 1953
 KOREAN WAR
 3,877,147 Scriptures
 deployed.

1959 – 1975
 VIETNAM CONFLICT
 18,576,941 Scriptures
 deployed.

2001 to the present:
 Since the United States
 announced war against
 terrorism — the most
 protracted and in some ways
 most difficult in U.S. history —
 2 million New Testaments and
 more than 900,000 full Bibles
 and other Scripture resources
 have been deployed.

For more information, please visit:
ArmedServices.AmericanBible.org



Making Your Gift Go Further

Global Scripture Impact Promotes Integrity and Stewardship

By Maria Wolf

When it comes to charitable giving, Americans have big hearts. Eighty-nine percent of households give, with the average annual contribution topping \$1,620, according to the National Philanthropic Trust.

Yet Americans have long memories, especially when their money is wasted. This finding, borne out by the nonpartisan research group Public Agenda, shows that Americans value integrity, honesty and truth. And when those values are thwarted, “the breach is nearly impossible to repair,” the report states.

American Bible Society takes this message seriously, so seriously, in fact, that it created Global Scripture Impact (GSI) three years ago to promote transparency, integrity, accountability and stewardship for many of the projects ABS supports.

All donors deserve to know how their money is being spent, says R. Lamar Vest, president of ABS. But they also deserve to know how lives are affected by their donations, he adds. GSI helps “close the gap between hopeful giving and life-changing results,” Dr. Vest says.

This is a critical distinction. Life-changing results — not hopeful giving — are the foundation for effective Christian ministry, says Mark Forshaw, executive director of GSI. Before GSI was created, ABS had few ways to validate results, life changing or otherwise.



Shamalia Snipe, senior research analyst for GSI, passing out biblical text booklets to victims of the recent flood at Nueva Esperanza School in Pueblo de Cuatro, Bolivia.

Photo by Bible Society of Bolivia.



Barbara Delp, senior research editor for GSI, visiting an orphanage in Sete, Uganda, to follow up on how funding was implemented.

“A significant amount of dollars were going to Christian ministry in the United States and across the globe,” Mark adds. “But we had no significant information about the extent to which those dollars were making a difference.”

GSI changed that by conducting in-depth evaluation on the projects ABS considers supporting. A team of program analysts, all with international ministry experience, explores each project to determine its validity and effectiveness — whether it’s a translation project in Nicaragua or a Bible distribution program for people in Haiti.

Among tasks, program analysts will examine the project design, assess its risk, review its track record and projected results, explore the implementer’s leadership capabilities and determine the organization’s strengths and weaknesses. In the process, GSI works with the organizations to further develop their ability to manage the project effectively and, in turn, produce life-changing results.

Certain projects that are on the table for funding cannot withstand GSI’s scrutiny, says Rhoda Gathoga,

research director for GSI. And any number of reasons may account for this: poor organization on the part of the implementer, unrealistic expectations or leadership changes that pose a threat to the project’s implementation.

Global Scripture Impact helps “close the gap between hopeful giving and life-changing results,” Vest says.

If it seems that a project may not meet its objectives, funding can be delayed or stopped altogether, Rhoda says. Finding clarity is the reason for such extensive evaluation. On occasion, advice is offered or funding is increased to meet a gap in the organization.

“There are needs all over the world,” says Rhoda, “so we have to determine why we should fund one project over another.

“You can’t save the world by dropping money into a country,” she continues. “Everybody has good intentions, but it’s whether you can achieve them that matters.

You need a logical plan to see that the outcomes you desire are accomplished. Accountability is necessary.”

When projects receive the GSI stamp of approval, researchers will conduct site visits on at least 15

percent of them to ensure they’re meeting objectives. If they are not, steps are taken to get them back on track. If site visits are impossible because of costs, political climate or location, GSI calls upon a global network of people who can step in to validate and assess the ongoing work.

Mark says this research fosters trust and confidence, exactly what Americans want when they’re looking to donate one of their most prized possessions — their money.

Learn more: GSImpact.org

Meet Rosalina

Mozambique's Good Samaritan

By Jennica Stevens

She greets visitors with a wide smile, dancing and joy.

But Rosalina Matola, founder of the Evangelical Church of the Divine Pastorate of Mozambique, also understands pain. "My own father died when I was 3 years old," Rosalina explains, "so I know what it is to be in need." Yet grief and struggle do not define Rosalina.

Rosalina is serving in Mozambique, Africa, where it is estimated that 500 new cases of HIV/AIDS infection occur every day. She considers it her calling to share God's love with those who suffer from this terrible disease.

Here in the southern district of Infulene, she spreads that joy to almost everyone she meets — disabled victims of a 16-year civil war and those maimed by land mines the war left behind; families displaced by natural disasters and orphans now without any family of their own; women abandoned by husbands and young men desperate for answers of what their future now holds.

Rosalina cares for them all. And now, equipped with training from the American Bible Society-sponsored Good Samaritan program, this care is extending even further to reach some of Mozambique's most vulnerable.

A Haven for the Abandoned

The Good Samaritan program is an HIV/AIDS outreach implemented by the Bible Society



Rosalina Matola in a white shirt with Rhoda Gathoga, in a purple shirt, research director for Global Scripture Impact, with one of the beneficiaries of the program.

of Mozambique (BSMz). It trains Christian leaders like Rosalina to respond to the problem of HIV/AIDS with Jesus's love and compassion. From July 2009 to May 2010, the project prepared 118 pastors and teachers to minister through Scripture to HIV/AIDS patients and their families.

Through onsite training sessions, informational booklets and the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, Mozambican pastors and teachers learn to provide for the basic medical, emotional and spiritual needs of infected individuals and their families. The leaders then bring this training back to their village churches so they can help others.

Each day, HIV-positive Mozambicans struggle to overcome the stigma associated with their disease. Often they are abandoned by their families and lack access to proper nutrition, medical treatment and resources. But where others turn away, Rosalina invites them in. She visits them, providing love and

acceptance. For those cast out, she also has a place for them to stay: her six-bed compound is a haven, staffed with volunteers who provide shelter and nutrition for all those in her care.

Taking Care of Them All

The first case of HIV in Mozambique appeared in 1986. Now, according to UNICEF, approximately 1.5 million Mozambicans live with HIV/AIDS. Rosalina watches firsthand as the HIV/AIDS epidemic ravages families, children, men and women in her community. "We have orphans to take care of. Old people too," Rosalina explains.

In Mozambique, the Good Samaritan program is replacing the stigma of the disease with a love for one's neighbor — a love that reflects Jesus's Words: "Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!" Matthew 25:40 (GNT)

This Christmas, GIVE HOPE.

Celebrate Jesus's birth by sharing the Word through our Christmas Catalog



Choose from 23 life-changing gifts, including:

- **Bibles for Soldiers** far away from home this Christmas — in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world.
- **The light of the Gospel** for children in China and Egypt.
- **Food and Bibles** to provide physical and spiritual sustenance for needy American children.
- **Hope for At-Risk Teens** needing spiritual guidance to stand strong for Christ.

This year give a gift that will really matter — *forever*. Each gift can be sent in honor of a friend or family member, and comes with a card you can send to let them know you're honoring them while blessing others.

Look for the American Bible Society Christmas Catalog in your mailbox.

Or see the online catalog at Give.AmericanBible.org



Photo by Rev. Valente Tesco, General Secretary Bible Society of Mozambique.

The Beauty of God's Word Rediscovered

Lectio Divina, an Ancient Method of Praying with Scriptures, is Bringing Catholics Back to the Word of God.

By Maria Wolf

"To get the full flavor of an herb, it must be pressed between the fingers. So it is the same with the Scriptures; the more familiar they become, the more they reveal their hidden treasures and yield their indescribable riches."

St. John Chrysostom, a.d. 347-407

As a devout Catholic, I admit I have a tough time reciting Scripture verses. It seems I'm not alone.

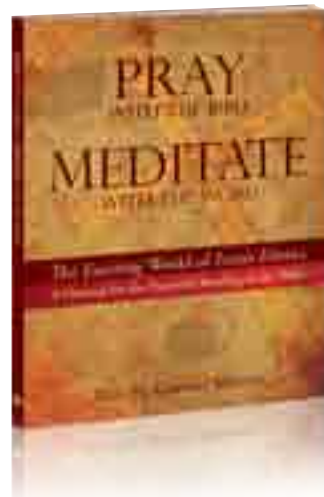
A recent Rasmussen Reports poll confirms that Catholics know little about the Bible and rarely read it.

What can be done to get us back to the Word of God? The answer lies in two Latin words: *lectio divina*.

Lectio divina is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures so that the Bible — the living Word of God — becomes a means of union with the Holy One. This ancient and powerful form of praying with Scripture began around a.d. 220 and was practiced by Catholic monks, especially the monastic rules of Sts. Pachomius, Augustine, Basil and Benedict.

Centrality of the Bible

God's Word is crucial to the life of the Catholic Church. In fact, the last two Popes — the late Pope John Paul II and the current pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI — have called its flock to go back to sacred Scripture. American Bible Society is helping the Catholic Church respond to that call.



"Our mission is the Word of God," says Mario Paredes, presidential liaison to the Roman Catholic Ministry at ABS. "We join in partnership with the Catholic Church and are presenting *lectio divina* as our flagship program serving Catholics nationwide."

Indeed, Pope Benedict solidly supports *lectio divina*. In a 2005 speech, he recommended this ancient method of prayer: "The diligent reading of sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart."

In the nearly 500 years following the Reformation, Catholics were divorced from the Bible, says Paredes. As a result, they did not have a healthy understanding of God's Word, the effects of which are still being felt today. This is a problem for one simple reason. "Not knowing the Bible is ignorance of Christ," says Paredes, quoting St. Jerome. "The entire Bible points to one single reality, the person of Jesus."

Into the Heart of God

Lectio divina, says Paredes, bears great fruit. "Meeting Jesus in the Word produces an excitement, joy and happiness because people are speaking with the Lord."

Indeed, Sister Veronica Gross, RSM, has seen the fruit of *lectio divina* in her home parish of Mother of Divine Providence in King of Prussia, Pa.

About three years ago, the parish had hosted various speakers to discuss different forms of spirituality with parishioners. Of approaches, the people liked *lectio divina* the best, says Sr. Veronica. "They were actually able to do it. It was manageable, and people realized that Scripture is approachable," says Sr.



Brother Ricardo Grzona (in the blue golf shirt) presenting the Spanish version of *Lectio Divina* at the Bronx, New York Passionist Spiritual Center, May 2010.

Veronica, who belongs to the order of the Sisters of Mercy. "We call the Scripture the living Word of God," she adds. "*Lectio divina* meets people where they are. It's so personal, and that's the beauty of it."

As part of its Roman Catholic ministry, ABS will continue to meet with bishops of various diocese to discuss *lectio divina*. ABS also will debut a manual, *Pray with the Bible*, to introduce English- and Spanish-speaking Catholics to *lectio divina*. During retreats, ABS will use the manual to train people in this method. They will then take their knowledge of *lectio divina* and share it with their fellow parishioners. Using this approach, ABS hopes to touch at least 200,000 people a year.

Although *lectio divina* has its roots in the monastic tradition, this method of prayer is for all Christians. "It's a beautiful way to bring you right into the heart of God," says Paredes.

Photo by Alicia DeFrango.

Four Steps Anchor the *Lectio Divina* Method

1. **Lectio.** This reading of Scripture is different from the speed reading that many modern Christians apply to newspapers, books and even to the Bible. Using *lectio divina*, people read a Scripture passage slowly and attentively, attuned to hear a word or phrase that captures their attention.
2. **Meditatio.** Once readers find a word or phrase in the Scriptures that speaks to them, they think about it and ponder it. They memorize it, gently repeat it and allow the words to interact with their thoughts, hopes, memories and desires. Through *meditatio*, God's Word becomes his Word for participants — a word that touches them at the deepest levels.
3. **Oratio.** This third step is prayer, understood as dialogue with God, a loving conversation with the one who invites participants into his embrace. During this step, people allow the Word they've taken in to touch their hearts.
4. **Contemplatio.** In this final step, participants simply rest in the presence of the one who, through his Word, invites them to accept his transforming embrace. Practicing silence, they enjoy the experience of simply being in the presence of God.

Lectio.AmericanBible.org



Detail of an illustration by Ronald Pichardo from *Elementz of Life™*, issue No. 6.

Near the Heart of Urban Youth

Publishing the Stories and Hope of God's Word for Teens Across America's Cities

By Liz Smith

Tonya Wilder-Butts is a woman with vision. As editor-in-chief of *Elementz of Life™* magazine, she goes after stories that will minister deeply to her audience — the young and urban. The magazine, published by American Bible Society, is geared to youth and young adults of the Hip-Hop culture. It includes compelling street-side stories and art designed to encourage young people and help them resolve some of life's most challenging issues through a biblical lens.

Honoring New Orleans

For the latest issue, she was determined to do something special to honor the city of New Orleans, five years after Hurricane Katrina. As a sports lover, she knew just where to start — the 2010 Superbowl winners, New Orleans Saints. And looking to share a love for both New Orleans and Jesus Christ, she focused on the team's chaplain, Heath Evans.

"Heath was so amazing," reports Tonya. "Our interview turned out to be 16 pages long — you can't imagine how hard it was to edit it."

As parents, Heath Evans and his wife, BethAnn, are devoted to their two young daughters. They also founded the Heath Evans Foundation, a ministry dedicated

to fostering hope and healing through Christian counseling and intervention in the lives of children and families affected by sexual abuse.

Heath says, "My purpose is to live in such a way that I challenge Christians to be better, and I challenge the unbeliever to go find a source of peace and fulfillment that I have in my life. I'm in the pursuit of that which all Christians are . . . to try to stay planted in God's Word, understand it, digest it and put it into action."

The Tough Issues

For the rest of issue No. 6, Tonya tackled some tough subjects: from music to sexuality, self-destruction and ultimately finding worth in God's eyes. These are stories, poems and illustrations that speak from a very personal place. And they all point to God's Word and a vision for the future that includes healthy community in relation to Jesus Christ.

Feedback on prior issues is overwhelmingly enthusiastic from readers and supporters alike. A woman named Barbara Ann who

is incarcerated at Plane State Jail in Dayton, Texas, wrote, "I read your magazine from cover to cover. I believe if it affected me as it did, it will help many others of all different races and ages . . . I know I can do anything through God who strengthens me. It starts with being free on the inside!"

ABS donors and *Elementz of Life* supporters Aileen and Bob Adams, who live in Charlotte, N.C., visited four prisons in April. The most common question they heard was, "Did you bring us any *Elementz of Life* magazines? When will issue six be out?" So many are hungry for this magazine," they said.



Photo of Heath Evans courtesy of Heath Evans.

Visit Bibles.com to order copies of *Elementz of Life*.

Bible Q&A

Q Please tell me the definition of a Saint?
— Victor Babington, by e-mail

A The term "saint" is often used to describe a person of exceptional holiness, formally recognized by the Christian Church, especially by canonization. Canonization is a solemn declaration by the pope in which a deceased member of the faithful is proposed as a model and intercessor to the Christian faithful and venerated as a saint on the basis of having lived a life of heroic virtue or having remained faithful to God through martyrdom.

In the Bible, the word "saints" refers to holy people — holy, however, not primarily in the moral sense, but in the sense of being specially marked out as God's people.

Many of the letters of the apostle Paul (see Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians) begin with a greeting that includes the word "saints" such as, "To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia." In such statements, Paul includes all believers in Christ. The saints are God's possession (Acts 9.13) and God's beloved (Romans 1.7). They are saints because God has called them: they owe their status to no one but God.

It is in and through Jesus Christ that God has "sanctified" them (1 Corinthians 6.11), or "made them holy," or "made them saints" (Ephesians 1.1; Philippians 4.21).

Saints are characterized by faithfulness to their Lord (Ephesians 1.1; Colossians 1.2); they are called to endurance in their faith (Revelation 13.10; 14.12). To them has been revealed the mystery of the Gospel of Christ (Colossians 1:26). They are called to conform their lives to God's holy character; i.e., to live a life that is consistent with their status as saints (Ephesians 5.3). God ministers to the saints (Romans 8.27) and intends that they minister to one another's needs (Romans 12.13; 2 Corinthians 8.4 and 9.1; Ephesians 1.15, 4.12 and 6.18; Colossians 1.4; 1 Timothy 5.10). The saints will receive a glorious inheritance at Christ's return (Ephesians 1.18; Colossians 1.12; 1 Thessalonians 3.13; 2 Thessalonians 1.10).

All believers are saints because of the sanctifying work of Jesus Christ. Usually in the New Testament "saints" refers to the corporate church. While the term "saints" designates the Christians living in a certain city or town (as addressed in the greeting of Paul's letters), most often the term designates all Christians in the entire world (Romans 8.27; 1 Corinthians 6.2, 14.33; Ephesians 1.15, 18).

Q How does the King James (KJV) Bible translation compare to the Contemporary English Version? I have always been told to stay with the KJV but want to understand the Bible better.

— Lesa M. Holmes, by e-mail

A The *King James Version (KJV)* is a very accurate translation of the Bible that was done by an eminent team of scholars 400 years ago (AD 1611) in England. It is what we call a word-for-word translation from the original Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament. The *Contemporary English Version (CEV)* was completed in 1995. It is also a direct translation from Hebrew and Greek; however, the *CEV* is more a phrase-by-phrase rather than a word-for-word translation.

Many words in every language change meaning over time. For example, 400 years ago "prevent" meant "to go before; to go in front of." That is not how today's reader would understand "prevent." Since language does change with time, having a more recent translation can be helpful. Additionally, some ancient Hebrew and Greek words simply do not have an equivalent in English, so a phrase-by-phrase translation approach can bring clarity to a passage containing such words.

You may find that having two or more translations to compare will aid you in your study of God's Word.

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

ABSRecord.com/bibleqa

Passion for Peace

One Scholar's Dream for Lebanon

By Jennica Stevens

"Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid." John 14:27 (GNT)

When Dr. Issa Diab sits down at his desk in Beirut to work on translating the Bible into modern Arabic, he knows his task is so much more than another academic exercise. It is a labor of love to bring God's life-giving Word to millions of Arabic-speaking Christians in their own culture and context.



Dr. Issa Diab and his wife Enas in Beirut, July 2010. He is a translation consultant for the Bible Society of Lebanon.

Words for Today

Dr. Diab, a translation consultant for United Bible Societies and professor of Semitics and Christian/Muslim Studies, is heading up two teams of Arabic-speaking biblical scholars to update the *Van Dyck-Boustani* Arabic translation of the Bible. The project, implemented by the Bible Societies of Lebanon and Egypt with support from American Bible Society, is revising a 150-year-old translation to reflect modern Arabic.

In the Middle East, the *Van Dyck-Boustani* Bible is the most widely used Arabic Bible, yet many Arabic-speaking Christians have a difficult time understanding the now-outdated

and challenging language. And if they can't understand the Bible, it becomes difficult to engage with the God of the Bible. It's a problem that lies heavily on Dr. Diab's heart.

Thirsty for Peace

In the last 75 years, oil disputes, religious quarrels and power struggles have plunged Middle Eastern nations into upheaval. And Lebanon has seen much of the violence up close. In the years immediately following World War II, tourists flocked to the country; Beirut was even called "The Paris of the Middle East." But 1975 ushered in a 15-year civil war that tore apart Lebanon's infrastructure and ravaged countless lives. In 2006, tensions escalated again, leaving more than 1,000 people dead in a month-long conflict.

But it is here — in the midst of violence, hate and war — that Dr. Diab perceives a desperate need for the message of the Gospel. As he walks through the streets of his city, he can see reminders of religious conflict in the Middle East. Families are broken, buildings destroyed, neighbors are at odds. Yet Dr. Diab finds hope in Scripture, which tells of God's unbridled passion for love and reconciliation.

This is Dr. Diab's clear belief: As people begin to engage with God's Word in a format they understand, they will also begin to understand and live its truth.

Although the translation work is still in progress, results are already beginning to appear. The translation team distributed 1,000 updated translations of the book of Colossians in 2009, and 1,000 updated copies of Revelation during the 2010 Easter season. One Orthodox bishop led his entire diocese through reading the updated version of Revelation. As the translation work continues, Dr. Diab is confident that Scripture will move more deeply into the hearts of Arabic-speaking people.



Church of Saint John the Baptist in Byblos (*Jbeil* in Arabic). Byblos is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world and is where *bublos* (Egyptian papyrus) was imported into Greece.

A Promise of Peace

In the Middle East, peace often seems unattainable. But Dr. Diab will not retreat. The world around him may be in turmoil, but he is convinced that God's promise is one of peace. Arabic-speaking Christians are rediscovering this promise in a language that speaks clearly to their hearts and lives.

Photos by Rhoda Gathoga.

Quiet Time

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11 (KJV)

January 2011

Confess Jesus as Lord

- 1 Romans 1.1-17
- 2 Romans 5.1-21
- 3 Romans 6.1-23
- 4 Romans 10.5-17
- 5 Matthew 1.1-25
- 6 Matthew 2.1-15
EPIPHANY
- 7 Matthew 2.16-23
- 8 Matthew 3.1-17
- 9 Matthew 4.12-25
- 10 Matthew 8.1-17
- 11 Matthew 8.18-34
- 12 Matthew 9.1-17
- 13 Matthew 9.18-38
- 14 Matthew 10.1-25
- 15 Matthew 10.26-42
- 16 Matthew 11.1-19
- 17 Matthew 11.20-30
- *18 Matthew 16.1-28
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS
- 19 Matthew 17.1-23
- 20 Matthew 17.24—18.5
- 21 Matthew 18.6-20
- 22 Acts 8.4-25
- 23 John 17.1-26
ECUMENICAL SUNDAY
- 24 Acts 8.26-40
- 25 Acts 9.1-25
- 26 Acts 9.26-43
- 27 Acts 26.1-18
- 28 Acts 26.19—27.12
- 29 Acts 27.13-38
- 30 Acts 27.39—28.10
- 31 Acts 28.11-31

* The Octave for Christian Unity is January 18-25, 2011.

February 2011

Abide in God's Love

- 1 Leviticus 19.1-18
- 2 Deuteronomy 6.1-25
- 3 Matthew 19.13-30
- 4 Mark 12.28-44
- 5 John 3.1-21
- 6 John 3.22-36
- 7 John 13.1-20
- 8 John 13.21-35
- 9 Hosea 1.1—2.1
- 10 Hosea 2.2-23
- 11 Hosea 11.1-11
- 12 Hosea 14.1-9
- 13 1 Corinthians 12.12-31
- 14 1 Corinthians 13.1-13
- 15 2 Corinthians 8.1-24
- 16 2 Corinthians 9.1-15
- 17 2 Corinthians 12.1-21
- 18 2 Corinthians 13.1-13
- 19 Romans 12.1-21
- 20 1 John 1.1-10
- 21 1 John 2.1-17
- 22 1 John 2.18-29
- 23 1 John 3.1-24
- 24 1 John 4.1-21
- 25 1 John 5.1-21
- 26 2 John
- 27 3 John
- 28 Jude 1-25

March 2011

Come to the Lord in Prayer

- 1 Colossians 1.1-23
- 2 Colossians 1.24—2.19
- 3 Colossians 2.20—3.17
- 4 Colossians 4.2-18
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
- 5 2 Corinthians 1.1-11
- 6 Psalm 27
- *7 Psalm 51
- 8 Psalm 57
- 9 Matthew 6.1-18
ASH WEDNESDAY (WESTERN CHURCHES)
- 10 Joel 1.1-20
- 11 Joel 2.1-17
- 12 Joel 2.18-27
- 13 Matthew 4.1-11
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
- 14 Isaiah 38.1-20
- 15 Isaiah 55.1-13
- 16 Isaiah 58.1-14
- 17 Jeremiah 32.1-15
- 18 Jeremiah 32.16-44
- 19 Lamentations 3.1-24
- 20 2 Chronicles 1.1-17
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
- 21 2 Chronicles 5.2-14
- 22 2 Chronicles 6.1-17
- 23 2 Chronicles 6.18-42
- 24 2 Chronicles 7.1-22
- 25 Nehemiah 9.1-38
- 26 Daniel 9.1-19
- 27 Habakkuk 1.1-17
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
- 28 Habakkuk 2.1-20
- 29 Habakkuk 3.1-19
- 30 Psalm 115
- 31 Psalm 116

* Orthodox Lent begins on March 7, 2011.

Please Pray

“Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.” Romans 12.12 (GNT)



At the dedication and worship service for the long-awaited Revised Vietnamese Bible in Ho Chi Min City, there were more than 400 pastors, leaders and Christian well-wishers. This was a proud and moving moment because pastors from the Evangelical Church of Vietnam, North and South, had worked together on this project.

Algeria

Please pray for us to have the courage and strength to tackle our many challenges and opportunities. More people are attending church, so pray for more Scriptures to be made available. We are able to produce Scriptures within the country, but we need the freedom to import them as well. Also ask for protection for staff and volunteers as we seek to do the work we are called to.

Croatia

Please pray for the ongoing work on the New Croatian Bible translation project. We have been hit hard by the recession, so please join us in praying that our Scripture sales increase and that we have the resources we need to continue our work. New opportunities have opened up for us to distribute Scriptures in hospitals and libraries; please pray that we are able to develop good relationships that enable us to reach many people.

Mozambique

Give thanks for peace following the general election. Praise God, too, for the success of the Good Samaritan program, for the expansion of our rural literacy project and for the impact of the Faith Comes By Hearing® program. Pray for our ongoing translation projects and for openness and wisdom among Church leaders as they join us in challenging people to engage with God's Word.

U.S. Armed Services

Please pray for the physical, emotional and spiritual strength of our active-duty servicemen and women, veterans and chaplains as they confront the challenges of war on and off the battlefield. Please pray for protection for returning service members and their families. Pray that American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry will be effective in reaching these men, women and families with God's healing Word.

Vietnam

The Evangelical Church — the largest denomination here, with some 300 congregations — will celebrate 100 years of Protestantism in Vietnam in 2011. Please pray as we prepare a limited edition of the Revised Vietnamese Bible in time for these celebrations. Give thanks for increased Bible usage among Catholics and for the popularity of an annual Bible quiz in Northern Vietnam. This quiz is helping to strengthen the spiritual foundation of young people.

You can sign up to receive daily Bible readings in your e-mail in-box at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org every morning.



**EVERY DAY IS A JOURNEY.
GET SOME DIRECTION.**

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Something amazing // Something awful // Exactly what you thought //
Something you never ever expected**

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Get headed in the right direction.

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JOURNEYS
something good every day

Photo Courtesy of Joyce van de Veen (UBS Netherlands) and Jenise Lee (UBS Singapore).

In Memoriam

“I will remember your great deeds, Lord; I will recall the wonders you did in the past. I will think about all that you have done; I will meditate on all your mighty acts.” Psalm 77.11, 12 (GNT)

My mother,
Elizabeth Baysinger
Given by Connie Burk Davis

Mary Lesta Lowe Cosby
Given by Dr. Robert M. Cosby

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

Avanelle Fuquea
Given by Mrs. Geneva C. Fuquea

My mother,
Ruth Galm
Given by Rev. Arlene R. Wilhelm

Marjorie Hoffeld
Given by Sarah Altland

Our grandmother,
Ruby Lackey
Given by Nicolas and Erin Yount

My husband,
Charles (Chuck) D. Ross
Given by Alice J. Ross

My father,
Charles Richard Rostron
Given by Merry Horst

William Smith
Given by Merry Horst

Honor the memory of a loved one by helping to provide Bibles to people who don't yet have them. 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 process, please write to: **Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.**

50 Years of God's Faithfulness

By Jennica Stevens

The Rev. James Hainley has witnessed God's miraculous provision for more than 50 years. The first glimpse came when Jim was a young student experiencing doubts and uncertainties about God in the late 1950s. In the midst of his struggle, he encountered a professor who listened to his questions and challenged him to trust God with his life. Jim did. And his understanding of God's provision began.

This lesson followed Jim into his career as a civil engineer. By 1985, he was working as the head of an engineering office in Maryland but sensed God leading him to attend seminary and enter full-time ministry. When his superiors learned of Jim's desire to attend seminary, they gave him an ultimatum: either give up the idea of seminary and commit to the company or they would close the Maryland office and lay off the branch's employees.

Jim couldn't commit to the company, so the next day he informed his staff that the office would close. Immediately, he began to pray that his employees would find jobs. When his branch shut its doors two weeks later, his prayers had been answered. Every employee had secured a new job, and Jim was free to enroll in seminary.



Rev. James Hainley and his wife Sandy have invested in eternity through American Bible Society.

These days, Jim continues to see God's provision through the two-life gift annuity that he set up for his wife and daughter with American Bible Society. During his years as a pastor, Jim frequently used Bibles and other resource materials from the Bible Society. Now he takes comfort in the thought that he can continue to support American Bible Society's work and provide for his wife and daughter in the years to come.

E-mail
giftplanner@AmericanBible.org,
or call 800-549-3328.
Annuity.AmericanBible.org

Photo Courtesy of Olan Mills.

I Wanted to Walk Freely with our Lord Jesus



When Mr. Horner Chen was 31, his country went communist. His brother, a minister, was pushed into a bonfire clutching his cherished Bible. Mr. Chen left China to create a new family and a new life where he could continue to walk freely with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, he lives in Houston. Mr. Chen has established multiple American Bible Society gift annuities to store his treasure in heaven and to receive secure income for life.

Because Horner Chen donated several Charitable Gift Annuities, he receives:

- ✓ **Secure income for life;**
- ✓ **The joy of knowing he is supporting the American Bible Society mission, now and forever.**

Horner Chen at home in Houston.

American Bible Society Gift Annuity Program

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We pioneered the country's first gift annuity program. For more than 165 years, ABS has provided thousands of people with a lifetime of secure payments through gift annuities.

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An American Bible Society Gift Annuity is a financial agreement between one or two individuals and our ministry, exchanging a gift of cash, stock or bonds for fixed payments that last a lifetime. The minimum age required to create a Gift Annuity is 50; the minimum gift amount is \$1,000.

Find out more today about creating an American Bible Society Gift Annuity for yourself (one life) or for you and another beneficiary (two lives). Your gift will continue to generate the gift of God's Word throughout the world for eternity.

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