

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

Record

SPRING 2014

SPRING
GIFT CATALOG
INSIDE

JOY IN CHINA

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INTRODUCING ABS PRESIDENT ROY PETERSON

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AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

Living in God's Timing

Dear Friends,

You might imagine at this particularly momentous time, how honored and excited I am to follow God's call for me to join the work of American Bible Society. My wife Rita and I have supported the work of American Bible Society for many years, and we have deep respect and admiration for how God has used this organization.

As we contemplate the sovereignty of God's timing, we rejoice that we have the opportunity to be a part of this eternal work at such an important season for American Bible Society. In just two short years ABS will celebrate 200 years of ministry in the United States and around the globe. And although God has used the work of ABS to reach millions of lives, we know that this work is far from over.

Ecclesiastes says that all things happen at the time God chooses.

"He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building."

(Ecclesiastes 3.2, 3, GNT)

In the pages of this magazine you will read about our work in China. There is a continued need to provide more Bibles to China. But this country—whose Christian population is growing at an exponential rate—also needs pastors trained in solid biblical teaching.

In the Great Lakes region of Africa, many children's lives have been ravaged by war, but I challenge you to read about how the Bible's message of hope can bring healing to these precious little ones.

In the United States we're advocating for Bible engagement—moving the Bible from people's shelves to their hearts. Through discussions spurred by the new "Son of God" movie, people will turn to the pages of Scripture to learn more about Jesus Christ, the author and foundation of our faith.

Although it has only been a few months since I began my tenure as president and CEO of American Bible Society in February, I am already encouraged by the work God is doing because of your faithful support and partnership. We are so thankful for your prayers and support.

May God bless you and your family in this Easter season.

Serving together,



Dr. Roy Peterson
President & CEO
American Bible Society



Dr. Roy Peterson, president and CEO of American Bible Society

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PRODUCTION

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CONTACT US

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

212-408-8754

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Record

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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. American Bible 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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In the Middle East, All Things Are Possible with God



Labib Madanat has worked in the Middle East for more than 20 years to share the Bible's message of peace.

When Labib Madanat helped start the Palestinian Bible Society in the early '90s, he had no idea what to expect. In fact, he thought the organization's mission—to make the Bible available to Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip—would be difficult, given the many different groups

vying for power in the region.

But God was at work, says Madanat, and the results taught him never to underestimate the power of the Lord. "We lived the most wonderful story of God's faithfulness as we saw the Bible being distributed widely among the Palestinians."

Even more important, the Bible's message went deep into the Palestinian communities, from Gaza to Jericho to Bethlehem to Samaria. Jesus' command to love and forgive others captivated the hearts and minds of the Palestinian people.

"The Lord surprised us," Madanat adds. "The Holy Spirit was already at work among the people, and they were ready to embrace the Good News of Jesus Christ. All they needed was for us to go and serve them."

Madanat is now working with American Bible Society to help continue the Bible mission in the Middle East. He invites American Christians to help see God's purposes for this troubled region—which needs God's Word more than ever—to come true.

Watch Madanat tell more of his story at abs.us/Palestine.

■ Support the Bible cause in the Middle East at:
ABSRecord.com/GiveABible.

National Update

Armed Services Launches Military Bible App for iPhones

The Armed Services Ministry of American Bible Society announces the launch of its Military Bible Challenge app for iPhones, a state-of-the-art, multi-sensory app in which users can choose their Bible translation and Scripture challenge plan. The app offers the E-100, Brick by Brick (military edition), and 7 Minutes with the Savior, which allows users to read through the New Testament in a year.

Art Pace, executive director of ABS' Armed Services Ministry, also a retired Chaplain (COL-Ret), executive director of ABS' Armed Services Ministry, is excited about this new offering. "With this app, a service member, veteran or family member can have Bible challenges tailored to their needs and concerns right in the palms of their hands."

This app is currently available as a free download from iTunes and GooglePlay.



The Most and Least Bible-Minded Cities

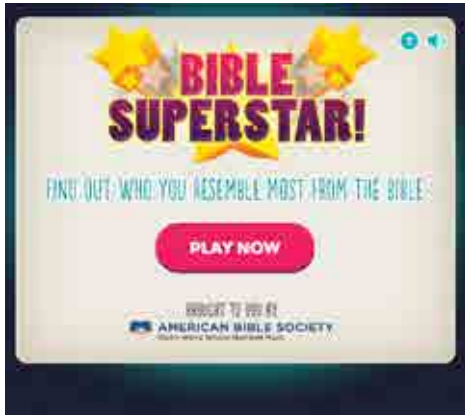
Chattanooga, Tenn., is the most Bible-minded city in the United States, and Providence, R.I., is the least, according to ABS' second annual study, *America's Most Bible-Minded Cities*.

It's no surprise the Bible Belt continues to perform strongly, with Chattanooga, Tenn.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Roanoke/Lynchburg, Va.; claiming the top three spots. Cities on the East Coast continue to rank at the bottom, with Providence, R.I.; Albany, N.Y.; and Boston claiming the least Bible-minded spots.

Knowing the least and most Bible-minded cities helps ABS evaluate the Bible landscape in America, says Geoffrey Morin, ABS' chief communication officer. That way, ministry work can be targeted effectively.

"To help people engage with the message of the best-selling book of all time, we need to understand where people are starting from. Whether you live in one of the least Bible-minded cities, the Bible can speak to your needs, challenges and concerns and help you make sense of life."

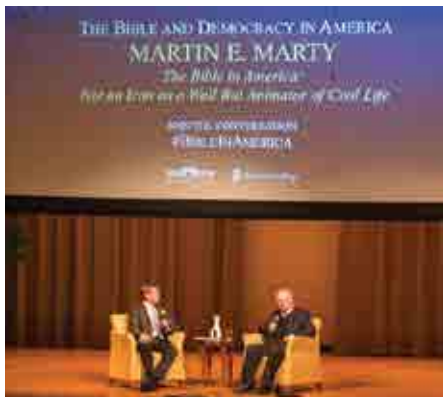
■ Read more about the study at:
abs.us/BibleMindedCities.



Engage the Bible on Facebook

Are you more like David, Ruth, Joseph or Deborah? With American Bible Society's new Bible character Facebook game, you can find out. Follow the link below to take the quiz and learn what biblical character you are most like. The game offers Scripture passages to help you dive deeper into the person's life. "The goal of the game is to identify with the message and characters in Scripture," says social media team member Sarah Ortiz. "As people interact with the Bible's message, they begin to integrate it into their lives."

■ Enjoy the game at: ABS.us/BibleSuperstar.



Symposium Connects ABS to Academia

American Bible Society, under the leadership of the Nida Institute, joined with Wheaton College to host an academic symposium, "The Bible and Democracy in America: An Interconfessional Christian Conversation," in October 2013 at Wheaton College. A diverse group of speakers presented at the two-day conference, which was attended by nearly 200 scholars, students, clergy and lay people. Professor Martin E. Marty of the University of Chicago Divinity School presented the keynote talk.

Roundtable discussions focused on religious freedom and the separation of church and state, as well as engaging the Scriptures in the public square. Audience members interacted with the panelists in thought-provoking conversations.

Celebrating Christmas in the ABS Atrium

During the Christmas season, the ABS Atrium near Columbus Circle in New York City was a special gathering place for young people to celebrate the coming of Jesus's birth. Daily activities, such as wrapping gifts, doing crafts, watching movies and coloring, made the Atrium exciting for family members of all ages.

"We want the Atrium to be an inviting place for everyone," says Arthur Satterwhite, senior program manager. "People in the neighborhood know us here, and we wanted families to come and experience the joy of our Savior's birth by doing fun activities together."



(Above) Outside the ABS Atrium, passersby play an interactive game that shares messages of hope.

(Inset) A visitor decorates a snowflake with a Christmas message.



International Update

South Sudan: New Translation Brings Forgiveness

The Shilluk people of South Sudan have experienced more than 22 years of war and conflict. And they endured it all without a translation of the Bible in their language. But now the Bible Society of South Sudan, with support from American Bible Society, has completed a translation of the entire Bible in the Shilluk language. "We need this new Bible to help us forgive," one Shilluk woman explains. "Then we can move on, living by what we read in the Bible."

- To see a video of the Shilluk people receiving the Bible, visit abs.us/Shilluk.



The translation of the Bible into the Shilluk language of South Sudan will bring the message of God's love and forgiveness to a region ravaged by war.



Peru: Literacy Brings Scripture to Hearts

In some rural churches in Peru, 95 percent of believers lack the reading comprehension necessary to understand God's Word. That's why American Bible Society is supporting the Peruvian Bible Society's project to increase literacy through Scripture-based materials. So far, the Peruvian Bible Society has provided materials for five language groups in Quechua communities in the Andes mountains of Peru. As reading group facilitators teach literacy, they also address the application of biblical themes, such as preventing domestic violence. The success of the program in Peru has led to similar programs in Ecuador, Panama, Bolivia and Chile.



(Above) Participants in the Quechua Bible-based literacy program gather for prayer. (Below) Students in Peru learn to read using stories and texts from the Bible.



The Bible Society of India, with support from American Bible Society, is publishing new translations of children's Bibles in many Indian languages. The Bibles are having an important impact on the lives of children in India.

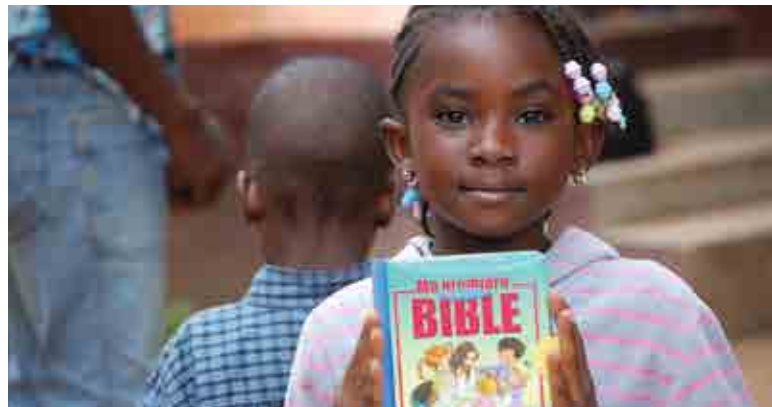
India: Bibles for Thousands of Children

In India, the demand for children's Scripture is so high that the Bible Society of India has published children's editions of the Bible in 30 languages, including all the major Indian languages. Now, with support from American Bible Society, they are continuing to meet the demand for Bibles in Christian schools, Sunday schools and Vacation Bible School classes.

The Bibles often have a significant effect on the lives of children. The mother of one 9-year-old child said, "My son was so undisciplined and could not be controlled. After reading the Children's Bible published by The Bible Society, he has completely changed. He has accepted Jesus as his God. I see a radical change in him. I have bought a full Bible in Hindi to read it for myself."

Togo: Youth Rooted in Scripture

In Togo, more than 60 percent of the population is under age 25. These youth face challenges, including widespread unemployment, violence, poverty and an increasingly secular lifestyle. The Bible Society of Togo, with support from American Bible Society, is working to provide the youth of Togo with a framework for spiritual development based on the Bible. Through Bible quizzes, camps, conferences, radio broadcasts and websites, the Bible Society of Togo is working to communicate the life-changing message of the Gospel to children and young adults throughout the country.



The Bible Society of Togo is implementing a variety of programs, including camps, Bible quizzes and radio broadcasts to bring the Bible's message to Togo's large youth population.



The Bible Society of Egypt is continuing the important work of providing the Bible to children and families who can't afford it. This work is ongoing, despite Egypt's changing political climate.

Egypt: Bible Distribution Increases, Despite Unrest

Despite interruptions from curfews, demonstrations and strikes, the Bible Society of Egypt is still providing Scripture resources to poor children and their families, a project American Bible Society supports.

"We have distributed more Scriptures than ever in 2013," says Ramez Atallah, general director of the Bible Society of Egypt. "Undoubtedly, as people feel insecure, they turn more to God's Word for comfort and encouragement. Pray with us to know creative ways to better reflect what the Prince of Peace would say to Egypt."



Reading the Bible is an important part of Roy's daily routine. "To me, the Bible is life," he says. "It's God speaking to me in a relationship with me."

OPENING GOD'S WORD FOR ALL THE WORLD

Pioneering for the Word of God became a life-long pursuit for new ABS President and CEO Roy Peterson.

Dr. Roy Peterson, American Bible Society's new president and CEO, says that the Scriptures are at the center of his heart, mind and soul.

"To me, the Bible is life," says Roy. "It's God speaking in a personal relationship with me. Some people might make the mistake of thinking of the Bible as just a book or something to check off, when in fact this book is alive! So it's a daily part of my life, and it's my heart's desire to see it become a daily part of people's lives all around the world."

But it wasn't always that way. As a troubled teen, Roy didn't know the Lord. "It was God's Word and a couple of inmates at a Mexico prison that led me to Christ. The Holy Spirit took the Scriptures in my heart language, English, and spoke to my heart. I heard the Word of God so clearly. I knew I was forgiven for the sins in my life and that God was willing to give me a new beginning."

That profound moment transformed Roy, who has spent the last 25 years working tirelessly to help bring the Bible's message around the globe.

"Every man, woman and child should have the opportunity to have God speak to them in their heart language," Roy says. "When God's truth enters our hearts in the language we

understand best, we grasp what he is saying to us. His Word becomes personal."

Just as it did for Roy.

Roy began his career in private industry after marrying the love of his life, Rita. At the time, they were active in a small Baptist church in the suburbs of New York City.

They spent their first seven years as new followers of Christ, deepening their understanding of Scripture. "We'd go week by week, verse by verse, through the Bible," recalls Roy. "We were soaking it up like sponges. That deep expository teaching became our experience." And their lifeline to growing in Christ.

As Roy continued forward in Fortune 100 management positions, it would take several years, many promotions and four children before God called Roy to share God's Word as a full-time job. It started on a mission trip to Haiti, where Roy was struck by "the bondage of Bible poverty" there. French-language Bibles were available, but the people spoke Creole. God's Word was inaccessible to them.

"Up to this time, no one had ever translated the Bible in Creole," says Roy. "As I walked the streets of Haiti, I saw the spiritual and physical poverty. And I saw the darkness. The



Beginning in the first days of married life, Roy and Rita Peterson combed through Scripture together, week by week, verse by verse.

Get to know the Petersons: 3 Quick Facts About Roy and Rita

- 1 International Experience:** Roy and Rita lived in South America for eight years—in Guatemala and Ecuador—while Roy served in leadership positions with a Bible translation organization.
- 2 ABS Connections:** Rita has been involved in American Bible Society's Bible-based trauma healing programs for years through her work as a counselor and therapist.
- 3 Business Background:** In addition to more than 25 years working for the Bible cause, Roy brings experience from his extensive background in business. He worked for several Fortune 100 companies before working full-time to help lead the cause of Bible translation.

light of Christ hadn't been brought to these people's souls. I vowed to do whatever I could to get the Gospel out to those who didn't have it."

With that promise, God opened the door for Roy and Rita to begin serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators, a nonprofit organization that makes God's Word accessible to all people in the language of their heart.

Moving with the Spirit

The position brought Roy and his family to Quito, Ecuador, and eventually to Guatemala City. The family stayed in South America for eight years until Roy was unexpectedly invited to serve as president and CEO of Wycliffe USA from 1997 to 2003.

Roy loved his mission and had no intention of moving until God called him as president and CEO of The Seed Company, a Wycliffe organization that accelerates Scripture translation and impact for people without God's Word. Roy served there from 2003 until Feb. 3. He now makes his home at American Bible Society.

"I'm not that smart, but God is," jokes Roy. "This is

not about Roy making brilliant, meaningful decisions. It's simply about God calling me here."

Indeed, Roy has had a relationship with American Bible Society for nearly two decades through his work in Bible translation.

"American Bible Society's scope of reach nationally and internationally is truly strategic," says Roy. "ABS has a legacy of prayer, giving and influence on so many fronts. God has given ABS some tremendous gifts: faithful donors, passionate staff, top-tier partnerships and cutting edge technology."

Roy envisions a great future for American Bible Society. He outlines two key areas of focus as he steps into this new role: growing Scripture engagement through the U.S. church and eliminating Bible poverty globally for the hundreds of millions who have never had one verse in their own language.

An exciting season is clearly ahead. Under Roy's leadership, you can expect ABS to continue to focus its passion for accelerating God's Word into strategic ministry that is changing lives all around the world—exposing nations to the hope of Jesus found in the pages of Scripture.

Quiet Time

“The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart.” Hebrews 4.12 (GNT)

April 2014

God's Word: Giving Us Hope

- 1 Psalm 33
- 2 Psalm 34
- 3 Psalm 40
- 4 Psalm 41
- 5 Psalm 42

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- 6 Isaiah 40.1-31
- 7 Isaiah 49.1-23
- 8 Isaiah 51.1-23
- 9 Isaiah 52.1-12
- 10 Isaiah 52.13—53.12
- 11 Matthew 20.1-19
- 12 Matthew 20.20-34

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

- 13 Matthew 21.1-17
- 14 Matthew 21.18-46
- 15 Matthew 26.1-35
- 16 Matthew 26.36-75

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 17 Matthew 27.1-26

GOOD FRIDAY

- 18 Matthew 27.27-56
- 19 Matthew 27.57-66

EASTER SUNDAY

- 20 Matthew 28.1-20
- 21 John 20.1-31
- 22 John 21.1-25
- 23 Hebrews 4.1-13
- 24 Hebrews 4.14—5.14
- 25 Hebrews 6.1-20
- 26 Hebrews 7.1-28
- 27 Hebrews 8.1-13
- 28 Hebrews 9.1-22
- 29 Hebrews 9.23—10.18
- 30 Hebrews 10.19-39

May 2014

God's Word: Renewing Us in Faith

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- 1 Psalm 80
- 2 Hebrews 11.1-22
- 3 Hebrews 11.23-40
- 4 Hebrews 12.1-29
- 5 Romans 1.1-17
- 6 Romans 2.1-16
- 7 Romans 3.21-31
- 8 Romans 4.1-12
- 9 Romans 4.13-25
- 10 Romans 5.1-21
- 11 Romans 6.1-23
- 12 Galatians 1.1-24
- 13 Galatians 2.1-21
- 14 Galatians 3.1-14
- 15 Galatians 3.15-29
- 16 Galatians 4.1-20
- 17 Galatians 4.21-31

- 18 Matthew 12.1-21
- 19 Matthew 12.22-37
- 20 Matthew 12.38-50
- 21 Matthew 14.1-21
- 22 Matthew 14.22-36
- 23 Matthew 15.21-39
- 24 Matthew 17.1-23

- 25 Ephesians 1.1-23
- 26 Ephesians 2.1-22
- 27 Ephesians 3.1-21
- 28 Ephesians 4.1-16

ASCENSION DAY

- 29 Acts 1.1-11
- 30 Acts 1.12-26
- 31 Psalm 47

June 2014

God's Word: Empowering Us With the Holy Spirit

- 1 Isaiah 6.1-13
- 2 Isaiah 61.1-11
- 3 Isaiah 62.1-12
- 4 Joel 1.1-20
- 5 Joel 2.1-17
- 6 Joel 2.18-32
- 7 Joel 3.1-21

PENTECOST

- 8 Acts 2.1-28
- 9 Acts 2.29-47
- 10 Acts 5.12-42
- 11 Romans 8.1-17
- 12 Romans 8.18-39
- 13 Romans 12.1-21
- 14 Romans 14.1-23
- 15 John 14.1-14
- 16 John 14.15-31
- 17 John 15.1-27
- 18 John 16.1-15
- 19 John 16.16-33
- 20 1 Corinthians 12.1-11
- 21 1 Corinthians 14.1-25
- 22 1 Corinthians 14.26-40
- 23 Ezekial 1.1—2.1
- 24 Ezekial 2.2-10
- 25 Ezekial 3.1-27
- 26 Ezekial 36.1-15
- 27 Ezekial 36.16-38
- 28 Ezekial 37.1-28
- 29 Ezekial 39.1-29
- 30 Ezekial 43.1-17

July 2014

God's Word: Teaching Us About Mercy and Forgiveness

- 1 Matthew 18.21-35
- 2 Luke 17.1-10
- 3 Luke 18.1-14
- 4 Luke 19.1-10
- 5 John 8.1-11
- 6 2 Corinthians 2.5-17
- 7 Exodus 2.11-25
- 8 Exodus 3.1-22
- 9 Exodus 5.22—6.13
- 10 Numbers 20.1-13
- 11 Numbers 21.1-20
- 12 Psalm 32
- 13 Judges 2.1-23
- 14 Judges 3.1-30
- 15 Deuteronomy 4.1-14
- 16 Deuteronomy 4.15-40
- 17 Deuteronomy 11.1-32
- 18 Deuteronomy 15.1-18
- 19 Deuteronomy 19.1-13

- 20 Jeremiah 31.1-22
- 21 Jeremiah 31.23-40
- 22 Jeremiah 33.1-26
- 23 Lamentations 3.1-24
- 24 Lamentations 3.25-57
- 25 Lamentations 5.1-22
- 26 Isaiah 38.1-20
- 27 Isaiah 41.1-20
- 28 Isaiah 42.1-17
- 29 Isaiah 43.1-21
- 30 Isaiah 54.1-17
- 31 Isaiah 55.1-13

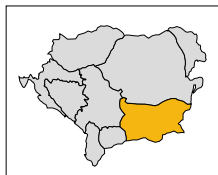
Pray Around the World

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven. Ephesians 1.3 (CEV)

Bible Societies around the world are helping to share God's message of hope and love with those who need it most. Here are prayer requests from a select group of Bible Societies that ask you to lift them up in prayer.

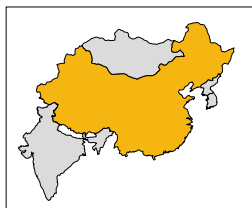


Despite floods that devastated parts of Mozambique, the Bible Society in Mozambique was able to continue to move forward with translation and distribution projects. Please continue to pray for its progress in 2014.



Bulgaria

Please pray for the Bulgarian Bible Society, as it distributes the Scriptures in an almost hostile environment, in a post-communist country with a very strong atheistic heritage. May the Lord continue to strengthen our small staff of three people.



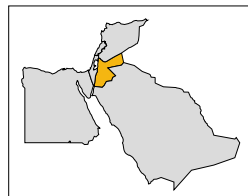
China

Please pray that the Church in mainland China will supply affordable Bibles to millions of poor people in the country's urban and rural areas. Ask also that it will carry out Bible translation projects and offer training to pastors and leaders, in addition to delivering programs that develop the spiritual growth of children and teenagers and provide assistance to people with disabilities.



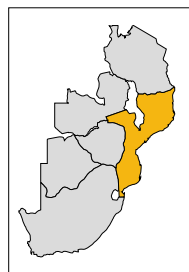
Guatemala

Thank God for the "My Second Chance" project targeting young people involved in gangs. Please pray that the Word of God and the growth of Christian churches may help reduce the levels of violence in the country through the message of peace of the Holy Scriptures.



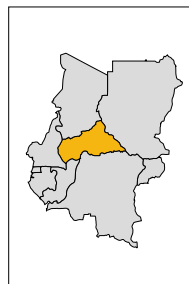
Jordan

Please pray for the Bread and Bread Project, which meets basic living and spiritual needs of Syrian refugees. Pray that the staff and volunteers of Bible Society in Jordan may be God's instruments to effectively reach people. Pray also for funds to acquire a new site and obtain the permit to build a new, better Bible House in Jordan.



Mozambique

Thank God for the establishment of the Bible-a-Month Club that enabled us to donate Bibles to the victims of flooding in Chókwe and Guijá in 2013. Praise God for the progress of Bible translation projects that are about to be completed. Please pray for peace, and political and economic stability in Mozambique.



Central African Republic

Praise God for protecting us during the recent political turmoil and for the successful launch of the Sango Bible in the Translation in Today's Language. Please pray that this publication will radically change the lives of Central Africans.

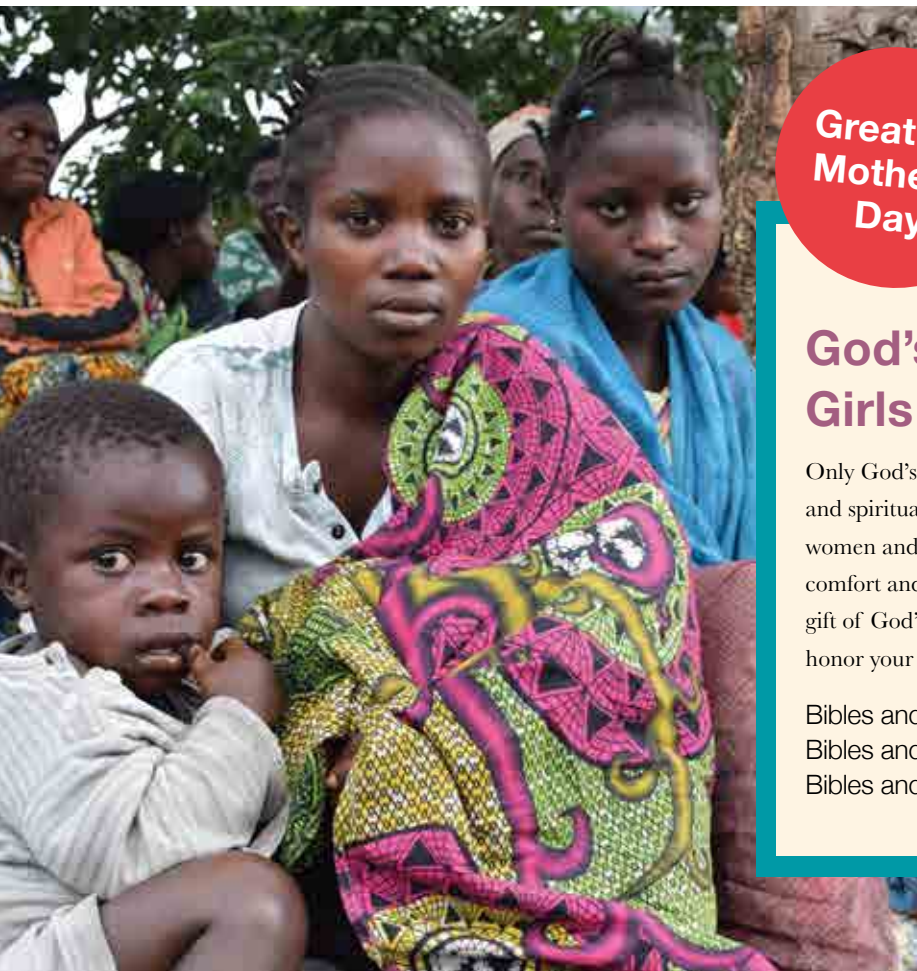


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Give the **Meaningful Eternal Gift** of God's Word

The need for God's Word at home and around the world is urgent. Give a gift that matters most to your loved ones: **the gift that shares Christ's eternal love and hope found in the Bible.**



Great for
Mother's
Day

God's Healing Word to Girls in the Congo

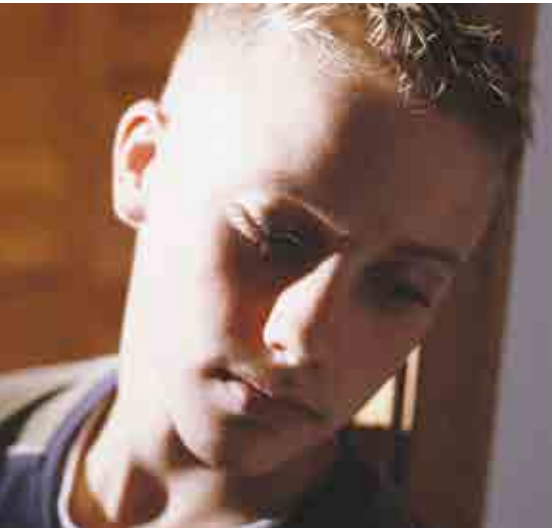
Only God's Word can truly heal hearts! Suffering deep physical and spiritual wounds from decades of war and brutal rape, women and girls in the Congo desperately need to know the comfort and healing love of Jesus. Giving the life-changing gift of God's Word and trauma healing is a wonderful way to honor your loved one for any special occasion.

Bibles and trauma healing for 7 hurting girls	\$70
Bibles and trauma healing for 15 hurting girls	\$150
Bibles and trauma healing for 20 hurting girls	\$200

“... Go throughout the whole world and preach the Gospel to all people.” Mark 16.15 (*GNT*)

God has given us the greatest gift—eternal life. This Spring, help share this gift with others.

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God's Word for Military Teens

There are 1.1 million teens in the U.S. who have parents in the military facing difficult and challenging experiences every day. These kids are often left without choice, moving frequently, disconnected from friends, and wrestling with identity. Show them that they have a Heavenly Father who cares and loves them dearly. Through a special web-based Bible engagement initiative, teens of military families find hope and a way thru the maze of their lives. Your gift will reach many by supporting the program's continually increasing reach.

- Help reach 12 military teens with His love **\$25**
- Help reach 30 military teens with His love **\$60**
- Help reach 62 military teens with His love **\$125**

“Put on all the armor that God gives you. . .” Ephesians 6.11 (GNT)

Bibles for Veterans

They fought hard for the freedoms we cherish. And even as we celebrate their homecomings, many of the deepest wounds they carry go unseen. You can help provide healing for the emotional damage that is often the result of war. Healing begins with the comfort of knowing the Savior and His love. Through Bibles and specialized Scripture booklets called *God Understands*, you will provide God's Word to hurting veterans, helping them work through issues like grief, doubt, guilt, fear, pain and more. They sacrificed for us—now it's our turn.

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Easter!

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- | | |
|---|-------------|
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| Bible storybooks and food for 6 boys and girls | \$48 |
| Bible storybooks and food for 12 boys and girls | \$96 |



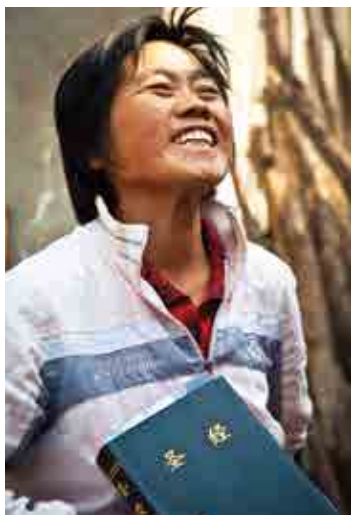
When Jesus said, "*Feed my lambs,*" it was a command to nourish hungry bodies and souls. (John 21.15, CEV)

Children's Bibles for Orphans

Boys and girls who have lost their parents to disease, war and other tragedies are hungry for love—and you can show them they are not forgotten. Let them know that they are precious in their Heavenly Father's sight—and that “Jesus loves the little children of the world.” Send colorfully illustrated Children's Bibles to orphans in their native languages. Help reach 120,000 children in India, Africa, Cambodia, Bolivia and around the world. Imagine the joy God's Word will bring to a lonely and grieving child!

Children's Bibles for 10 orphaned and at-risk children	\$50
Children's Bibles for 20 orphaned and at-risk children	\$100
Children's Bibles for 100 orphaned and at-risk children	\$500

“Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me! Don't try to stop them. People who are like these little children belong to the kingdom of God.’” Mark 10.14 (CEV)



Bibles for Chinese Christians

Multitudes of Chinese believers do not have their own Bibles . . . some have never even laid eyes on one. But churches are growing rapidly, and tens of thousands are coming to faith in Christ. The need to print Bibles in China is urgent. Your gift will help provide paper to print 300,000 Bibles for distribution throughout the country. We only need to cover the cost of the paper—\$1 per Bible. **Christians in China are pleading for Bibles.**

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Helping Kids Cope with Trauma

The Healing Hearts Club uses Bible-based stories to bring God's healing love to children

By Maria Wolf

Sami and Rose, a brother and sister in Africa, fled to the bush when armed soldiers set their village ablaze. Amidst gunshots and chaos, families scrambled to keep their loved ones together. But Sami was separated and couldn't be found.

That night would be the start of terror and trauma for the siblings, who witnessed unspeakable horrors. Each felt the pain of separation, anxiety and loneliness, which would persist until they were reunited years later.

Sami and Rose are composite characters based on the stories of real children. They're also the subjects of the new book, the *Healing Hearts Club,™ Story and Activity Book*, released in January by American Bible Society's Trauma Healing Institute (THI). This ministry unit helps restore lives disrupted by trauma through a targeted encounter with God's Word; the book is the next logical step in ABS' trauma healing program, which began with *She's My Sister™*.

"There is great demand for Bible-based trauma healing for children in the countries where we and our church partners serve," says Peter Edman, THI content and communications manager. "Where adults are hurting, children are hurting more. They don't have words for what they're going through. They have no means to articulate their pain."

The Healing Hearts Club materials, however, give them a way to connect with children just like them. And in so doing, it helps them find healing for emotional and spiritual wounds that would fester and impair their growth as beloved children of God.

Ten stories spotlight the experiences of Sami and Rose, and 10 additional stories—taken from the Bible—mirror their pain and show them that a loving,

The Healing Hearts Club curriculum is specifically designed for children who have experienced trauma.

The book features two characters who learn about healing through the words of the Bible.



living God is present throughout their experiences.

Activities, such as drawing a picture of happy and painful memories, help them understand what they're feeling so they can deal with their trauma and eventually work through it.

Pilot testing for the book, geared for kids ages 9 through 13, began in Kampala and Nairobi last year. Children used the book either in a camp setting or in separate sessions with trained facilitators. Most children improved significantly, according to reports from the facilitators, says Edman.

"They started performing better in school," he says. "They played better and were not as disruptive or aggressive with each other. And they were more open to talking about what they experienced and how they felt about it. I'm struck by what one child told us: 'Now I know I am important to God. I am not rubbish, no matter what people say.'"

In tandem with the Healing Hearts Club, THI also released *Healing Children's Wounds of Trauma*, a training book that equips churches and facilitators with the skills to run effective trauma healing programs for children.

"We are excited about the Healing Hearts Club program and believe it's essential to our Bible-based trauma healing work. It's a direct response to the requests of our church and Bible Society partners," says Edman. "Along with helping children work through their pain, the program gives them an opportunity to encounter God's love for them, no matter what has happened."

 Maria Wolf is a frequent contributor to Record.

■ You can help bring God's healing love to children.

Visit: [ABSRecord.com/GiveABible](https://www.ABSRecord.com/GiveABible).

JOY IN C



CHINA



With the end of the Cultural Revolution came the beginning of Christianity in China. Every year, more Chinese men, women and children discover the Good News that is Jesus Christ.

American Bible Society, in partnership with the Chinese Church, is working to bring God's Word to Christians in a part of the world where demand quickly outpaces supply.

But pastors are also needed to shepherd the burgeoning Christian population. With support from ABS, the Church in China is training the many men and women who feel called to serve God's people.

This photo essay highlights the various facets of the Church in China—from those who treasure the timeless gift of God's Word to those who attend Bible school in hopes of pastoring others. Working with the Chinese Church, ABS is advancing its mission so that Christians in China may experience the life-changing message of the Bible.

Making a Difference for Souls in Nanjing

Pastor Liu, who serves at St. Paul's Church in Nanjing, is so busy on Sunday mornings that she barely has time to sit down in between the five services she conducts. Services are so crowded, in fact, that the congregation spills outside the building. A dire need exists to equip the Chinese Church with pastors who will shepherd the burgeoning flock of Christians. Pastor Liu is doing her part, knowing she is making a difference in the souls entrusted to her.



100 Million Bibles and Counting

Through a paper subsidy from American Bible Society, Chinese churches can provide Bibles to Chinese Christians at affordable prices. These Bibles were printed at Amity Printing Company, which has produced more than 100 million Bibles—60 million of them for distribution in China—since it opened in the mid-1980s.

John, who works in the communication department at Amity, stands sandwiched between reams of paper that will proclaim God's Word. As a Christian, he is proud to be part of the world's single largest Bible printing company, one that fills the souls of millions of believers.



Serving the Rural Church

Ren is a student in the three-year program at the Henan Bible School. Being a student here is both privilege and sacrifice—a privilege because so few can get into the school, and a sacrifice because finances are a challenge. Ren is paying part of the tuition himself, some is being funded by his church, and a portion is being paid by his parents—poor people whose livelihood depends on the land.

Despite the financial difficulties, Ren knows ministry is his calling. He'd like to serve those in his rural village church, a congregation of more than 100 believers who have no pastors, no elders—just volunteer preachers.

Even though the rural church area is challenging, Ren remains committed to this setting. “I do all this in remembrance of God and his faithfulness toward me.”



The Bible: An Eternal Treasure

Liu proudly has her own copy of the Bible, a treasure she could have only dreamed of during the days of the Cultural Revolution. Bibles were so scarce then that all Liu had was her handwritten copy of the Gospel of Matthew. This Scripture Portion served as a lifeline for Liu who read it faithfully every day.

Years later, Liu got a photocopy of the Bible, which held the entire book of Scripture. For Liu, Scripture has been powerful and life-changing. “The Word of God has many truths and revelations we can follow,” she said. “It is precious to me.”

Applauding Wisdom

A student at the Henan Bible School smiles at his teacher's wisdom. He is grateful to learn at this school—one of the few institutions that train men and women for careers in ministry. More than 500 people routinely apply to Henan Bible School each year, but only 100 students are admitted into the program. Because demand is so great—and the desire to learn—many would-be students routinely sit outside the classroom to listen to lectures.



While their parents attend church services, these children learn Bible-based stories. Here, a young child consults the expertise of an older girl, who checks her pictorial children's Bible for more information.



Literacy and God's Word

Wang became a Christian 25 years ago. Although she basked in the joy of finding Jesus, she yearned to learn more about him. Yet when she got her own copy of the Bible, she was frustrated and unhappy. That's because she didn't know how to read.

Fortunately, her church offered literacy classes; Wang's heart, mind and soul then were opened to a deeper understanding of God. Passionate about the Bible, Wang now attends training to become a lay leader and preaches to other believers.

Scripture tells us that nothing is impossible with God. In the case of Wang, a copy of his Word was already hers. He simply opened a door to help her read it.

Training Men and Women for Careers in Ministry

The Rev. Tang Weimin is chairman of the Henan Christian Council and principal of the Henan Bible School. He is a man with a mission: to train 5,000 to 6,000 men and women for careers in ministry.

It is a huge undertaking and an arduous task. But the need alone keeps him focused; there are simply not enough pastors to shepherd the souls of all the Christians in China.

“There is a Chinese saying,” Reverend Tang says, “to grow a tree, it needs 10 years, but to cultivate a person, it needs 100 years. We hope to be able to achieve this goal within 10 to 20 years.”

Reverend Tang is patient and knows God’s plans will not be thwarted—even if it takes 10 years, 20 years or 100, for that matter.



Going the Distance for the Gospel

Ma is a county preacher on the move. She will go anywhere to preach, sometimes 100 miles one way. On those long-distance journeys, she usually boards a bus the day before to reach her destination.

But for shorter trips, a moped does just fine. A gift from her church, the moped keeps her nimble and flexible. When she preaches, she can be seen zipping through towns, villages and neighborhoods to share the Good News.

She is committed to preaching the Gospel to as many people as possible, and is willing to take whatever means necessary—bus, scooter or any other mode of transportation—to go where the Spirit leads.

■ To help meet the Bible needs of Chinese Christians, go to ABSRecord.com/China.

Teaching and Living God's Word

Longtime friends of ABS support the Bible cause both here and abroad

Newton Graves, 82, and his wife Harriet are longtime friends of American Bible Society, having supported the Bible cause for more than half a century. That's because the Overland, Kan., native believes God's Word is powerful, life-changing and necessary.

No stranger to Scripture, Newton spends six hours a week studying the Bible. He also teaches four classes a week. In fact, he's taught one class for the past 16 years. And the more he learns and teaches, the more inspired he becomes.

It's impossible not to feel Newton's passion for the Bible. As he speaks about Scripture, his voice fills with energy. "Through the Bible, God reveals himself to us. He shows us his plan and purpose. It is the inspired Word of God. And the more I study it, the more I love it."

Newton has a heart for ministry. Early in his life, he planted a church in Florida and pastored there for four years. During that time, he made the message of the Bible come to life for his congregation.

Teaching, then and now, is both privilege and responsibility. "I am accountable," he says. "I take my role very seriously because people put trust in me. I will be judged for this, so I'd better be accountable."

Newton left ministry to pursue a career in the trucking business, eventually working his way up to vice president of sales for a major transportation company. But Newton always had his heart—and many of his friends—in missions work. As a result, he met a third-generation missionary who worked at ABS during the 1950s.

It was then that Newton learned about the Bible cause. "ABS does international ministry work and home mission work, using the Word of God as a focus for what they do. I'm impressed, and always have been, with the depth and breadth of this organization's work."



Newton Graves and his wife, Harriet, both study the Bible on a daily basis. The Graves have also prioritized supporting Bible work around the world through charitable gift annuities at American Bible Society.

That's why Newton was happy to place his money in a charitable gift annuity, which provides a guaranteed rate of return for him and his wife Harriet. In the event of Newton's death, 100 percent goes to Harriet for the duration of her life. Whatever money is left after she dies will go immediately to the Bible cause for ABS' ministry programs.

"I thought it would be wonderful to invest our money in ABS because it will be here long after we are gone," Newton says.

Nothing, after all, can outlive the Word of God.

- You can support the work of American Bible Society around the world too! Visit: ABSGift.org.



Son of God comes to the Silver Screen

ABS provides resources to lead people to God's Word

By Maria Wolf

On Feb. 28, “Son of God” will be coming to a movie theater near you. Thanks to 20th Century Fox and producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey, “Son of God” brings the life of Jesus Christ to the big screen like never before.

The major motion picture spans the life of Jesus—from his humble birth and teachings to his crucifixion and resurrection. “Son of God” marks the first major motion picture about Jesus’s life since the “Passion of the Christ” released 10 years ago.

Pastors from around the country who’ve previewed the movie are already praising it.

“I’ve probably seen most, if not all, of the films about Jesus produced in the past 50 years,” says Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church. “This one stands alone, in a class by itself, as the best I’ve ever seen.”

“‘Son of God’ fills the big screen with two catalytic elements: the passion of the cross and the purpose of the empty tomb—forgiveness and eternal life,” says the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President NHCLC, Hispanic Evangelical Association. “This film informs, inspires and imparts not just a message, but ... contextualizes the quintessential hope narrative: Christ, the hope of glory.”

American Bible Society is proud to play a role in this project by providing Scripture-based resources to lead people to the Bible. “Son of God” can expose millions of people—some of whom never open the Bible—to the Good News, creating an unprecedented opportunity for biblical engagement.

“The movie is beautiful,” says Delores Burnett, ABS’ manager of justice and hope ministries. “We see it as a vital tool to bring people closer to God through Scripture engagement.”

ABS offered a “Son of God” discussion guide and 21-day Bible devotional to 350 pastors who gathered at the 23rd Annual Pastors Prayer Summit in late January. More than 50,000 people combined in various congregations had access to these valuable tools.

Likewise, the Church of the Nazarene is using these materials to share with its 5,500 member churches, representing 800,000 people in North America. The Church of the Nazarene fosters a culture of meaningful Scripture engagement, so ABS’ tools are a natural fit for them, says Tom Trageser, ABS’ senior church liaison. “The Bible is a tool to establish, renew and enhance a deeper walk with Christ. We come into the presence of God, and Scripture is the tool.”

■ Access movie discussion guides, a unique *Son of God* devotional series and more at: SonOfGodMovie.org.



Maria Wolf is a frequent contributor to Record.

In Memoriam

“I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated.” Psalm 62.5, 6 (GNT)

Roxanne Alleman

GIVEN BY TERRY EARHART

**John Batkiewicz and
Helen Luddy**

GIVEN BY MRS. GLORIA CROFT

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Mr. and Mrs. Myrle Bly

GIVEN BY MR. RONALD P. BLY

**Charles and Mary Boblasky
Earl and Mildred Chew**

GIVEN BY THOMAS AND DIANE BOBLASKY

MY MOTHER,

Edna Christensen

GIVEN BY MR. ANDREW D. CHRISTENSEN

MY FATHER,

Mr. Herb Claus

GIVEN BY ANN E. SOBEY

MY WIFE,

Ann Bell Davis

GIVEN BY MR. CARROLL HOWARD DAVIS

MY FATHER,

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