

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

Record

WINTER 2017

MOVING MOUNTAINS IN INDIA

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Algeria's Quiet Revival

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Last Chance
to Shop
Christmas
Gift Catalog!



Home for the Holidays



“There’s no place like home for the holidays.”

Although I’ve heard them on the radio a thousand times, the words of the popular Christmas song still ring true for me. I simply love being at home with my

loved ones—especially my five grandchildren—as we celebrate Christ’s birth with carols and cookies.

That’s why I find certain parts of the Christmas story so heartbreaking. The Apostle John writes of our Lord Jesus, “The world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him” (John 1:10-11 GNT).

Can you imagine traveling home for Christmas only to find that your family does not recognize your face? How would you feel if they turned you away and refused to receive you into the warmth of their home?

That’s what Christ endured for us. But thankfully, that’s not where John’s story ends. In John 1:12 we read, “Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God’s children.”

Through your generous support, that happy ending is increasingly true for families around the world. Because of you, mothers, fathers and little children are receiving Christ into their hearts as they encounter him in the pages of the Bible.

This issue of *Record* magazine is filled with their stories—and your fingerprints are on every page.

In the farthest reaches of India, a band of translators is bringing the Scriptures to people who have never received the hope of God’s Word in their mother tongues. Thanks to you,

many of them will wake up this Christmas morning and read the story Christ’s birth in their heart language for the very first time.

In Algeria, the situation is more dire. Being a believer can be dangerous there. And yet through your partnership, God’s Word is strengthening a secret, but growing, Christian church.

Likewise, God’s Word is bringing healing to broken Syrian families in the Middle East. As you read their stories in this magazine, say a prayer for them. Ask God to bring them to safety this Christmas season.

None of the stories in this magazine would be possible without you. Thank you for partnering with American Bible Society through your generous gifts—whether through the Christmas gift catalog in this magazine or through a bequest of your estate. You are a beloved member of the American Bible Society family.

As we celebrate all that God is doing around the world, let us also make room in our hearts for Christ the newborn king. May he richly bless you and yours this Christmas and New Year.

Serving together,

Roy L. Peterson
President & CEO

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CONTACT US

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD
866-895-4448
ABSRecord@AmericanBible.org

PARTNER CARE

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Record

GOD’S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST
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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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Cover Photo: Josh Wann.

Photo credit: Dag Simemo and Norwegian Bible Society.

Hope for Cameroon’s Hard Places

As General Secretary of the Bible Society of Cameroon, Luc Gnowa has helped bring God’s Word to thousands of Cameroonians. But one Bible recipient stands out in Luc’s memory—a woman named Mama Catherine, who recently died at the age of 118.



Luc Gnowa facilitates Bible translation projects for Cameroon’s minority language groups.

Although Cameroonians have had access to the Bible in French and English, Mama Catherine didn’t hear the Scriptures in her native tongue of Lamsou until she was nearly 90 years old.

“[She] said, “This is the first time in my life that I am hearing the Word of God,”” Luc says.

It’s for people like Mama Catherine, waiting for their first taste of God’s Word, that Luc and his team devote their lives to the task of Scripture translation in Cameroon.

“Translation is at the heart of our mission ... both at the Bible Society of Cameroon and among our friends here at American Bible Society,” Luc says. “Translation is the surest, fastest way for people to hear God talking directly to them in the language of their hearts.”

But bringing God’s Word to Cameroon’s waiting language groups is no small task. There are 268 language groups in Cameroon and several of the Bible Society’s translation projects have endured attacks from the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

“The easy places have already been reached; now we must get to the hard and difficult ones,” Luc says.

As American Bible Society’s financial partners support Bible translation projects in the hard places of Cameroon, Luc exhorts his partners to draw strength and hope from God’s Word.

“The Bible, I believe, is what makes Christians strong,” Luc says. “It is the ultimate source of faith and hope, tolerance and peace.”

You can help support Bible translation projects around the world. Visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles.



ZAMBIA:

Record-breaking translations reach waiting language groups

A mere three and half years after the translation projects started, the Nsenga and Ila New Testaments officially launched in Zambia in July 2016. Together these two translation projects made God’s Word available in the heart languages of approximately 1 million people.

In the past decade, New Testament translation projects like these took an average of eight years to complete. But through financial and technological support from Every

Tribe Every Nation—a global alliance of Bible translation agencies, including American Bible Society—translators in Zambia were able to cut that time in half, bringing God’s Word to waiting language groups faster than ever.

To watch a video of one Nsenga New Testament translator telling her story, visit ABS.US/ZambiaRecord.

RWANDA: God’s Word brings healing via the radio

The Bible Society of Rwanda recently launched an audio version of Bible-based trauma healing in Kinyarwanda, the country’s official language. Many Rwandans in need of spiritual healing live in areas where it’s almost impossible to attend an in-person trauma healing session. Now the trauma healing curriculum—which combines God’s Word with mental health best practices—can reach these hurting communities with the love of Jesus over the radio waves. American Bible Society President & CEO Roy Peterson and his wife Rita visited the project in August.

“Audio trauma healing is one of the most strategic ways



we can sow the seeds of God’s Word among those who need it most,” Peterson says. “The radio will help broadcast the restorative power of God’s Word to tens of thousands of listeners.”

Photo credits: Benjamin Leaman, Francois Sieberhagen.

INDIA: Bible Societies share hope after deadly flooding

In December 2015, torrential rains caused damaging flood waters to rise in India’s fourth largest city of Chennai, leaving hundreds dead and thousands displaced from their homes. In the wake of the flooding, Bible Society of India, with support from American Bible Society, worked to provide flood victims with Scripture Portions and relief goods, such as food, cooking equipment, clothes and bed sheets.

Through its auxiliary office in Chennai, Bible Society of India successfully distributed 935 packages of relief goods along with Scripture Portions. These relief packages have provided assistance for more than 2,000 people from four villages.



UKRAINE: Children’s Bibles comfort internally displaced families



Ukrainian Bible Society continues to minister to families forced to leave their homes due to the fighting between separatists and pro-government troops in Eastern Ukraine. With support from American Bible Society’s financial partners, Ukrainian Bible Society has distributed Scripture Portions for various age groups, with a special focus on displaced children.

Deputy General Secretary of Ukrainian Bible Society Anatoliy Raychynets recently encountered a mother and her young son reading one of the children’s Bibles distributed by the Bible Society. “She told me that she had never thought that Christians are such nice people and that the Bible is so wonderful,” Raychynets says. “The Savior came to their family through the children’s Bible that was produced and distributed thanks to support and prayers of so many of you in different parts of the world!”

Photo credits: United Bible Societies courtesy of Bible Society of India, Dag Smemo and Ukrainian Bible Society, Wes and Jerusha Neal.

FIJI: Rebuilding lives after Cyclone Winston

Ministry partners in Fiji used American Bible Society’s Scripture-based trauma healing curriculum to care for thousands of suffering people after Cyclone Winston struck the islands in February. Thanks to prior training in the principles of Bible-based trauma healing, partners Wes and Jerusha Neal quickly responded to needs on the ground.

“Thousands of people were part of teaching sessions, received home (or tent) visits, and many were able to be relieved of the burden of the storm through counseling sessions,” Wes reports. “But the work of healing the trauma of Cyclone Winston has just begun.” Through American Bible Society’s global network of local trauma healing facilitators, the healing power of God’s Word is able to reach suffering communities, such as those in Fiji, after disasters strike.

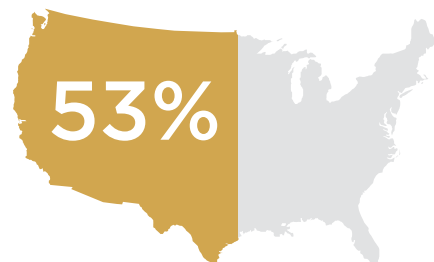


STATE OF THE BIBLE 2016

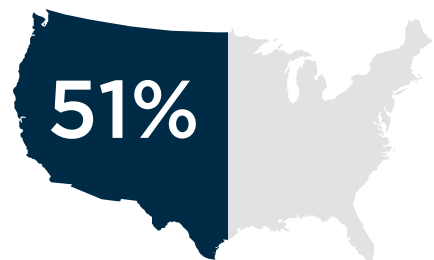
Politics and the Bible

Fifty-three percent of Americans believe politicians would be more effective if they read the Bible more often, according to the 2016 State of the Bible survey. Conducted by American Bible Society and Barna Group, the annual survey gathers data about how Americans engage with the Bible and its message. This year's survey also reports that 51 percent of Americans believe politics would be more civil if politicians engaged in regular Bible reading.

American Bible Society President & CEO Roy Peterson believes God's Word has a key role at this pivotal moment for American culture. "As America is shaken by skepticism, this is the time to renew hope in the promises of God's Word," Peterson says. "When people are battling extreme violence, poverty and oppression, this is our time to open the healing words of Scripture."



of Americans believe that politicians would be more effective if they read the Bible on a daily basis.



of Americans believe that politicians would be more civil if they read the Bible on a daily basis.

Read the full State of the Bible report at ABS.US/StateOfTheBible.



NEW BOOK SERIES Serves Military Wives

A newly published book series titled "Journey of a Military Wife" is designed to help military wives find solid ground in God's Word during the instability of military life. Written by Brenda Pace and published by American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry, each of the series' four books contains 60 short Bible reflections drawing on Pace's years of experience serving alongside her husband, a military chaplain.

"The words of the Bible are not just history lessons; they are living words that can transform minds and hearts," says Pace. "God is looking for women willing to take a step of faith and discover their place in his plan." The series also features an online Bible study companion for small groups.

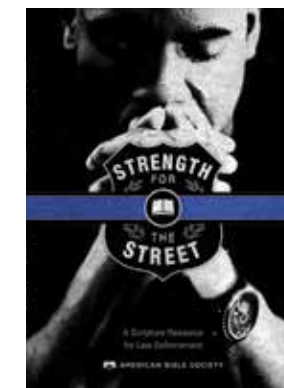
Explore Bible resources for military wives online at MilitaryWife.Bible.

Photo credit: Josh Wann.

GOD'S WORD Strengthens Inner City Police Officers

In November, American Bible Society launched "Strength for the Street," a Scripture engagement resource for law enforcement officers in Philadelphia. The booklet pairs Scripture passages with testimonies from local police officers, making "Strength for the Streets" a useful resource for police chaplains as they minister within a grueling professional environment.

"I think this resource will have a profound impact on policing in our city," says American Bible Society's Philadelphia Mobilizer Rev. Dr. Malcolm Byrd. "It will be an inspirational source that will contribute to their police practice—even how they live out their faith at home." Byrd says he hopes to see "Strength for the Street" roll out to additional U.S. cities in the months ahead.



APP HELPS YOUTH Engage God's Word after World Youth Day

Hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world descended on Krakow, Poland, in July for World Youth Day, an international gathering for Catholic youth. Through "Pilgrimage," a Bible engagement app that launched at the event, both event attendees and American youth who were unable to travel to Poland could engage Scripture passages with friends, view 360-degree video from World Youth Day and track their Bible-reading progress.

"The Pilgrimage app gives youth and young adults multiple ways to engage the Scriptures," says American Bible Society's Senior Manager of Catholic Initiatives Mike Carotta. The primary function of the app, Carotta explains, is to help young disciples stay rooted in God's Word long after World Youth Day is over. "It's a groundbreaking effort," he says.

7-DAY BIBLE CHALLENGE Applies Scripture to Community

A new online, 7-Day Bible reading challenge encourages readers to positively influence their communities by recommitting themselves to daily engagement with God's Word. The 7-Day Bible Challenge explores topics such as following God faithfully, fostering a heart full of devotion, and being a light to the world.

In addition to providing personal growth, readers will learn about the need for Bibles around the world and championing God's Word for all people.

Sign up to download the 7-Day Bible Challenge at Challenge.AmericanBible.org.



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REFUGE AND STRENGTH IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A reflection from the field by Carine Toussaint, a member of American Bible Society's Bible-based trauma healing team.

In early 2016, I had the privilege of visiting Syrian refugees in the Middle East. During my travels, I met countless families who had fled violent unrest in Syria for safer lives in Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey.

As I listened to the stories of wounded mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, I thanked God for allowing us to recently launch Bible-based trauma healing sessions in the Middle East. The ministry, which combines God's Word with mental health best practices, will offer Syria's trauma survivors a chance to share their grief and bring their pain to the cross of Jesus Christ for healing.

And the grief and pain among Syrian refugees is overwhelming. I saw it firsthand during my trip. Although I returned to the United States months ago, the faces of my Syrian brothers and sisters are still swimming through my head.

I remember Sayid*, an elderly man who fled Syria with his son. Now living in Turkey, the pair dreams of a stable life in Greece, but have encountered numerous setbacks.

First Sayid paid a man to take him and his son to Greece. But the man drugged Sayid and ran away with his money instead. Sayid and his son then jumped on a ferry headed for Greece, only to be apprehended by the police and brought back to Turkey. Later they boarded a boat that sailed toward Greece,



American Bible Society staff member Carine Toussaint (center, white shirt) visits with Syrian refugees in Turkey.

only to dock back in Turkey.

I also remember Sara*, a mother of five from Syria. On Christmas Day, a soldier from ISIS tore through her village and opened gunfire on her neighbors. The gunman killed Sara's husband and shot Sara in the arm. She fled to Turkey and united with three of her children, but was forced to leave behind two other children, both of whom are married, and could not leave Syria.

Although these stories are bleak, I have hope for Sayid, Sara and their fellow refugees. Ever since Bible-based trauma healing launched in the Great Lakes region of Africa, we've seen the power of God's Word heal broken lives time and time again. Nothing is impossible for our God—not even among the Middle East's most ravaged communities.

These refugees and their stories also reminded me of Christ, who was no stranger



Through Bible-based trauma healing ministry, God's Word is bringing healing to refugee families in the Middle East.

“I pray that they will find freedom from their suffering by engaging with the hope-filled message of Scripture.”

to rejection. During various parts of his life, he was unwelcome in his hometown and without a place to rest his head.

I'm praying that each Syrian refugee I met will learn to draw on the strength that Jesus offers through his resurrection. I pray that they will find freedom from their suffering by engaging with the hope-filled message of Scripture.

Thanks to your generous partnership, I can see the answer to my prayers unfolding in front of me. God's Word is already bringing hope to the hopeless in the Middle East. Wounded people arrive at our trauma healing sessions with pain and heartache, but regularly leave having embraced the freedom found in God's Word.

I want to thank you personally for linking arms with us—not just through your financial support, but also through your prayers. Please ask God to bless this ministry in the Middle East, that our weary brothers and sisters might drink deeply from the wellspring of his Word.

**Names have been changed to protect trauma healing beneficiaries.*

Carine Toussaint serves as American Bible Society's senior manager of global trauma healing.

To help bring the healing power of God's Word to hurting people around the world, visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles.

Photo credits: Carine Toussaint.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF GOD'S LOVE



Breaking New Ground with God's Word

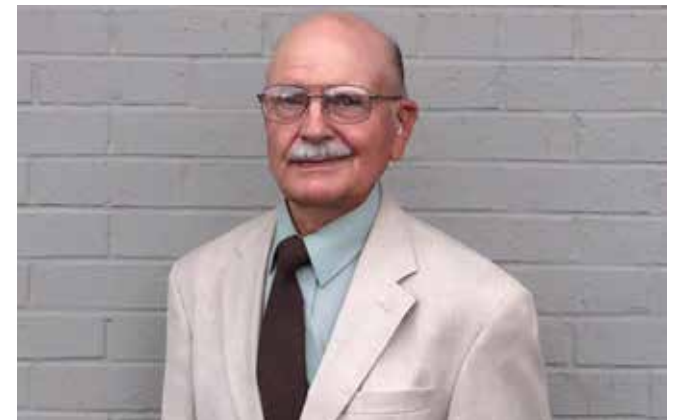
One American Bible Society financial partner shares God's Word where it's needed most.

At first glance, it might appear that the life of Paul Burmeister in Central Kansas hasn't changed much over the course of seven decades.

"I've been raised on a farm and I'm still farming at the age of 78," Paul says.

Paul's walk with the Lord echoes this steady pace of life.

"I was raised in a Christian home ... about eight miles from my home church," says Paul, who still attends that same church.



Although he's lived in Kansas all his life, American Bible Society financial partner Paul Burmeister has served people around the world—from farmers in Northern India to rural churches in China.

"There are so many areas where God's Word is needed."

But Paul's life has been anything but static. In fact, he's been on the ground floor of some of the most cutting-edge changes this century. Paul loves windmill energy and in 1981 was one of the first farmers in Kansas to apply the groundbreaking electric-utility interconnection technology on his farm.

And despite spending most of his life in Central Kansas, Paul has seen the world.

"The Peace Corps was initiated on March 1, 1961," Paul explains. "In late August of 1961, I was invited to be a volunteer and attend training for the India program of the Peace Corps. I was happy to accept that." With that, Paul joined the very first Peace Corps group to go to India. He spent two years in the northernmost part of the country.

"I worked with young Indian students on American agricultural equipment ... I helped farmers maintain and use those machines," Paul says. "It was a very active and interesting time for me. I look back to those times daily."

Paul's bold outlook on life also applies to the Bible.

"There are so many areas where [God's Word] is needed, including bringing the Scriptures to countries like China," Paul says.

He is also a passionate supporter of American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministries.

"We have so many veterans," Paul says. "In the last 15 to 20 years, there have been so many military members in much need of having Scriptures provided to them."

While Paul's life experiences inspire his ministry, he can trace his financial partnership with American Bible Society back to the faithful example of his family.

"Before I started making any contributions myself, I noticed that my parents, Fred and Gertrude, made several contributions," Paul says. "That helped me feel the importance of contributing to American Bible Society, so I finally started contributing myself."

In addition to his faithful contributions over the years, Paul has chosen to include American Bible Society in his Will, ensuring that his ministry of sharing God's Word where needed most will endure for years to come.

"American Bible Society is doing such great work," Paul says. "I feel happy to be contributing in some way to helping the Bible Society in their extremely important mission."

How is your legacy going to impact the people you leave behind? It's a question that each of us prayerfully considers, especially as we near the end our time here on earth.

Perhaps your mind jumps to the loved ones closest to you, such as your spouse, siblings, children and grandchildren.

But have you ever considered how your legacy will impact people that you never get to meet in this lifetime?

- **A young girl** in rural China waiting for a Bible in her heart language.
- **A woman** in Africa suffering from deep wounds of trauma.
- **An inner-city pastor** in need of Scripture resources for his church.

Through the passionate support of partners like you, American Bible Society has reached people like these with the life-changing message of God's Word for more than 200 years. One of the easiest ways for you to align your legacy with this life-changing mission is through a charitable bequest.

A bequest in a Will or Trust directs a gift to be made to a qualified exempt charity, such as American Bible Society, when you pass away. In addition to helping share God's Word with those who need it most, there are several practical advantages to

remembering American Bible Society through a beneficiary designation:

- **It's easy.** Simply fill out a brief beneficiary designation form provided by the plan or account administrator.
- **It's flexible.** You can modify or revoke the beneficiary designations at any time.
- **It's convenient.** Gifting assets via a beneficiary designation will avoid the probate process.
- **It's tax-friendly.** Your gift can help reduce your income and estate taxes.
- **It's inexpensive.** In most cases, there is no need to amend your Will or Trust, thus saving legal fees.
- **It's meaningful.** You can align your legacy with your deep desire to share God's Word.

As you prepare for the future, consider how a gift in your Will or Trust can impact the millions still waiting for the hope of God's Word. By taking action today, you can help ensure that your legacy will yield a spiritual harvest for generations to come.

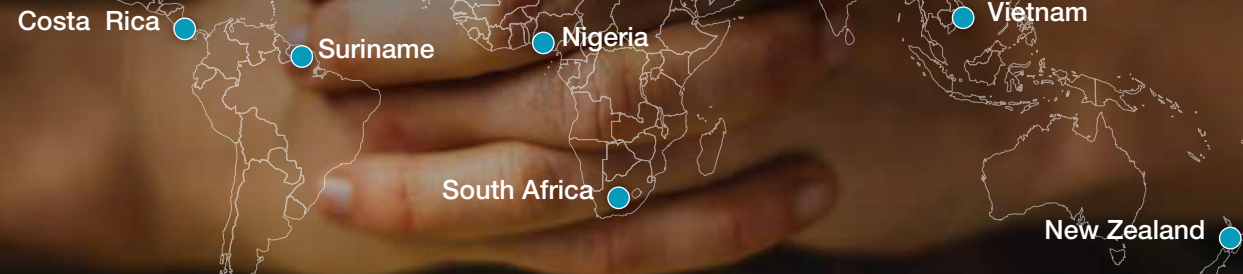
Go online to AmericanBible.org/GiftPlanning or call **800-549-3328** to take the next step in building your legacy today.

Photo credit: Andrew Hood.

Photo credit: Dan Leeman.

To explore how you can leave a lasting legacy, visit AmericanBible.org/GiftPlanning or call **800-549-3328**.

PRAY AROUND THE WORLD



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.

Nigeria

Bible Society of Nigeria asks you to pray for peace in their country, which has been ravaged by terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram, and pirates. Please pray that the Bible Society can continue to operate safely and smoothly while sharing the hope of God’s Word in this troubled environment.

New Zealand

Ask God to bless Bible Society in New Zealand’s Scripture Engagement campaign called “Pass It On,” which encourages Christians to share the Bible with the next generation of New Zealanders. Pray that God would use this campaign and the Bible Society’s mobile apps for youth to ignite spiritual revival among young people in New Zealand.

South Africa

Join Bible Society of South Africa in praising God for recent progress made in a Bible-based literacy project. The Bible Society also asks you to lift up three translation projects in prayer: new translations into Afrikaans and isiZulu and a special translation project for the Deaf in English. Ask God to use all of these projects to make God’s Word accessible to all South Africans.

Vietnam

Please pray for 11 ongoing Bible translation projects in Vietnam, including a Study Bible, the Bible in Braille and the Bible in Sign Language. Ask a special blessing for the Jahari and Koho New Testaments, which will be completed by the end of 2016. Ask God to reach new people groups through the power of his Word.

Suriname

Join Suriname Bible Society in celebrating God’s faithfulness throughout its 50 years of service, which was celebrated in 2016. The Bible Society asks you to praise God for the recent completion of the Sranang Tongo Bible and to lift up the ongoing Old Testament translations into Suriname Javanese, Aukan and Saramaccan.

Costa Rica

Please pray for Bible Society of Costa Rica as it forms a network of local churches that will collaborate with the migrant assistance project in the country. This coalition uses the Bible’s message of freedom and peace to fight modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Ask God to use the efforts to bring peace and justice to Costa Rica.

You can join our online prayer community at [Facebook.com/CircleOfPrayer](https://www.facebook.com/CircleOfPrayer).

QUIET TIME

“Yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Isaiah 40:8 (GNT)

JANUARY

God’s Faithful Word of Life

- 1 John 1:1-18
- 2 John 1:19-34
- 3 John 1:35-51
- 4 Matthew 1:1-17
- 5 Matthew 1:18-25

Epiphany

- 6 Matthew 2:1-12
- 7 Matthew 2:13-23

- 8 Matthew 3:1-17
- 9 Matthew 8:1-17
- 10 Matthew 8:18-34
- 11 Matthew 9:1-17
- 12 Matthew 9:18-38
- 13 Matthew 10:1-15
- 14 Matthew 10:16-31

- 15 Matthew 10:32-42
- 16 Matthew 11:1-19
- 17 Matthew 11:20-30

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins

- 18 Matthew 16:13-28
- 19 Matthew 17:1-23
- 20 Matthew 18:1-14
- 21 Matthew 19:13-30

Ecumenical Sunday

- 22 John 17:1-26
- 23 Matthew 20:1-19
- 24 Matthew 20:20-34
- 25 Acts 9:1-25
- 26 Acts 9:26-43
- 27 Acts 10:1-33
- 28 Acts 10:34-48

- 29 John 10:1-21
- 30 John 10:22-42
- 31 John 14:1-14

FEBRUARY

God’s Faithful Word of Love

- 1 John 14:15-31
- 2 John 15:1-17
- 3 John 15:18—16:15
- 4 John 16:16-33

- 5 John 2:1-12
- 6 John 2:13-25
- 7 John 3:1-21
- 8 John 3:22-36
- 9 John 5:1-29
- 10 John 5:30-47
- 11 John 6:1-24

- 12 John 6:25-59
- 13 John 6:60—7:9
- 14 John 7:10-31
- 15 John 7:32-52
- 16 John 8:1-20
- 17 John 8:21-47
- 18 John 8:48-59

- 19 1 John 1:1—2:6
- 20 1 John 2:7-29
- 21 1 John 3:1-24
- 22 1 John 4:1-21
- 23 1 John 5:1-21
- 24 2 John
- 25 3 John

- 26 Leviticus 19:1-18

Great Lent (Orthodox)

- 27 Deuteronomy 6:1-25
- 28 Matthew 22:34-40

MARCH

God’s Faithful Word of Prayer

Ash Wednesday

- 1 Matthew 4:1-11
- 2 Matthew 4:12-25

World Day of Prayer

- 3 Matthew 6:1-18
- 4 Psalm 85

First Sunday in Lent

- 5 1 Samuel 1:1-28
- 6 1 Samuel 2:1-11
- 7 2 Samuel 7:1-29
- 8 2 Samuel 22:1-28
- 9 2 Samuel 22:29-51
- 10 Psalm 89:1-18
- 11 Psalm 89:19-37

Second Sunday in Lent

- 12 Psalm 89:38-52
- 13 2 Chronicles 1:1-17
- 14 2 Chronicles 5:2-14
- 15 2 Chronicles 6:1-11
- 16 2 Chronicles 6:12-31
- 17 2 Chronicles 6:32-42
- 18 2 Chronicles 7:1-22

Third Sunday in Lent

- 19 Ezra 8:21-36
- 20 Nehemiah 9:1-25
- 21 Nehemiah 9:26-38
- 22 Psalm 11
- 23 Psalm 16
- 24 Psalm 17
- 25 Psalm 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 26 Psalm 25
- 27 Psalm 26
- 28 Psalm 27
- 29 Psalm 28
- 30 Psalm 30
- 31 Psalm 31

APRIL

God’s Faithful Word of Hope

- 1 Psalm 5

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 2 Psalm 33
- 3 Psalm 34
- 4 Psalm 37
- 5 Psalm 39
- 6 Psalm 40
- 7 Psalm 42
- 8 Psalm 62

Palm/Passion Sunday

- 9 Matthew 21:1-22
- 10 Matthew 21:23-46
- 11 Matthew 26:1-35
- 12 Matthew 26:36-75

Maundy Thursday

- 13 Matthew 27:1-26

Good Friday

- 14 Matthew 27:27-56
- 15 Matthew 27:57-66

Easter Sunday/Pascha

- 16 Matthew 28:1-20
- 17 Hebrews 1:1-14
- 18 Hebrews 2:1-18
- 19 Hebrews 3:1-19
- 20 Hebrews 4:1-13
- 21 Hebrews 4:14—5:10
- 22 Hebrews 5:11—6:12

- 23 Romans 1:1-17
- 24 Romans 2:1-16
- 25 Romans 3:19-31
- 26 Romans 4:1-12
- 27 Romans 4:13-25
- 28 Romans 5:1-21
- 29 Romans 6:1-23

- 30 Romans 15:1-13

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Translators in Northeast India are bringing God's Word to places like this rural, Galo-speaking village. The Galo New Testament was completed in 2007, and the Galo Old Testament is currently in the process of translation.

Photo credit: Rebecca Silva.



MOVING MOUNTAINS

in India

A network of Bible translators is bringing God's Word to some of the most remote language groups on earth.

For the Tiwa people in Northeast India, placing a phone call can be as difficult as climbing a mountain. Literally.

"I need to climb up the mountain nearly 500 meters and get the network," says Francis Maslai, a pastor in the Tiwa community, explaining what it takes to get phone reception. Maslai has gotten plenty of exercise placing those precious calls.

But if you were to follow him into the leafy green mountains of Assam, you wouldn't find Maslai chatting about the weather or catching up with an old friend. You would find him talking about Bible translation.

Maslai is just one of the many Bible translators in Northeast India receiving support from Bible Society of India. While translating the New Testament into his heart language

of Tiwa, Maslai would call one of the Bible Society's translation consultants whenever he got stuck on a difficult word.

Yet when it comes to equipping Bible translators in Northeast India, a telephone call is only the beginning. Bible Society of India, with the financial support of American Bible Society's faithful partners, provides Bible translators with comprehensive support, including a consulting center, technological resources and continuing education. Through this partnership, God's Word is taking root in one of the farthest corners of the world.

"This region is so important for us because they are responding to the gospel," says Head of Translation for Bible Society of India Jonadob Nathaniel. "Different communities keep coming and asking for the Bible."



By providing Bible translators with the tools and education they need, Bible Society in India is spreading the hope of God's Word throughout Northeast India.

Tools of the Trade

To reach the 96 language groups scattered throughout Northeast India, Bible Society of India has established a centralized translation center in the city of Shillong, which boasts access to the Internet and a stable electrical current—not a given in the rural hills of Northeast India.

“When there is no [power] current, I used to write with my own hand and wait for the time when there is a current,” says Maslai, describing how difficult it is to rely on the computer when translating the Bible in his rural village.

The translation center in Shillong, which offers support to more than 50 translation projects, can house translators and their families for 3 to 4 months at a time. The retreat provides translators the time and resources to tend to God's Word with the help of Bible Society translation consultants.

With access to the Internet, translators can also rely on a powerful translation software called ParaTExt, which displays multiple Scripture texts on the same screen and even suggests possible translations based on context.

In addition to making the translation process

easier, ParaTExt makes completed translations more secure. With their new biblical texts stored safely online, translators, such as Francis Maslai, don't have to worry about fires or floods sweeping away years of handwritten work.

Scriptural Shop Class

In addition to leveraging the resources in Shillong, Bible translators in Northeast India recently started gathering for an annual training seminar presented by United Bible Societies and American Bible Society's Nida Institute of Biblical Scholarship. Through the seminar, the remote band of translators stays up-to-speed on the latest in translation technologies and biblical studies.

“The training is, first of all, to train the translators to read the original languages,” Nathaniel says. He explains that this basic training helps translators understand the role of context in translation. For example, Nathaniel says, when Paul writes, “Beware those dogs,” in Philippians 3:2, it's important to know he's warning against false teachers, not rabid animals.

The annual training seminars also provide translators with the tools they need to excavate the

treasures of Scripture—and to share them with their people. Attendees learn how to dig out the root word of a biblical text, how to contextualize the Bible's ancient culture into local cultures, and how to make a new translation into a manuscript.

“[The seminar] gives me a new insight and new perspective on translation work. ... It is very interesting and very useful too,” Maslai says. “Without knowing these things, we would not be able to translate the right term in the right way.”

The Bible Transforms Lives

As language groups in Northeast India engage with God's Word for the very first time, people's lives are changing forever.

“Before, we learned from other [dialects],” says Galo Bible Translator Gode Doke. “But now, we are reading ourselves, so we are very happy.” In 2007, Doke finished translating the New Testament into his heart language of Galo. Now he's working on the Old Testament—a task his people are eager for him to complete.

“In the New Testament, we learn that God sent his son, Jesus Christ,” Doke says. “But without creating,

“Before, we learned from other dialects. But now, we are reading ourselves, so we are very happy.” —GODE DOKE



Galo Bible translator Gode Doke attends a training session on new Bible translation practices.

how did God send [him]? They want to know how God created his world. ... We want to know more about the whole Bible.”

Nathaniel has seen God's Word ignite this spiritual transformation throughout Northeast India.

“The Bible Society is meeting the needs of these



Francis Maslai (left) reviews his New Testament translation with fellow Tiwa-speakers from his community.

people ... especially the poor, exploited and oppressed,” Nathaniel says. “You can visibly and tangibly see the transformation of their physical life. ... This is the impact of the gospel on people’s lives.”

Striving Towards the Goal

As God’s Word takes root in this distant region of the world, translators in Northeast India know that they do not labor alone. Just as he placed calls for help from the heights of a mountain, Francis Maslai and his fellow

translators ask for continued prayer and support as they seek to finish the task of Bible translation in India.

Maslai is thankful for those around the world who support this essential work. “The New Testament will help [us] know more about Jesus in the Tiwa language.”

You can help bring the Bible to waiting people groups around the world. Visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles.

IN MEMORIAM

“The LORD is my protector; he is my strong fortress. My God is my protection, and with him I am safe. He protects me like a shield; he defends me and keeps me safe.” *Psalm 18:2 (GNT)*

The Dallas Police Officers
Given by D. Dwayne Anderson Jr.

Della Fitzgerald
Given by Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

F.R. Fitzgerald
Given by Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

My wife,
Viola Harper
Given by Ralph Harper

Steve King
Given by Mart Green

Steve King
Given by Cheryl R. Holland

Veryl Krueger
Given by Kathy Vendegna

My mother,
Barbara Layton
Given by Janet Morgan

Noemi M. Pascal
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Bidwell

Lena Perry
Given by Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

Minnie L. Perry
Given by Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

Luther Lee Perry Jr.
Given by Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

Luther Lee Perry Sr.
Given by Jimmy P. Fitzgerald

Raymond Streutker
Given by Lily Terwilliger

My sister,
Bobbi Williams
Given by Glenda L. Lewis

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For further details about the memorial process, please call: **1-866-895-4448**, email: DonorServices@AmericanBible.org, or write to: **Partner Care, American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East FL8, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155**

ALGERIA'S QUIET REVIVAL

God's Word is taking root in a hostile land—one heart at a time.

When Idir surveys the rolling hills of Northern Algeria, he admires far more than the natural beauty of his homeland. He admires the bravery of his Christian brothers and sisters in Algeria.

"In the early 2000s, Christians here used to meet in hiding—under the trees, in the mountains," Idir says. "It was what the churches were like in those days! [That was] also when the first Gospels were distributed in our area."

At the time, Idir was a Muslim, just like 99 percent of people in his country. He also sold drugs to fuel his addictions to drinking, smoking and using drugs. But everything changed when he read the teachings of Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

"This was so different from anything I had ever heard," Idir says. "It spoke of love and peace and hope. I was feeling so tired and discouraged and wondered if Christ could be the way."

In 2009, Idir finally turned away from his addictions and fully embraced faith in Christ.

A Growing Harvest

Stories like Idir's are increasingly common in Algeria. In 1986, Algeria was home to approximately 2,000 Christians. But over the course of 30 years, that number has grown a hundredfold, according to conservative estimates.

Yet although the number of believers has increased, many are forced to practice their faith quietly. In Algeria, publicly dissenting from Islam is a dangerous proposition due to social opposition from the Muslim majority. Many new Algerian believers—especially women—cannot safely attend a church meeting.

By providing opportunities for discreet Scripture engagement, Bible

"It strengthens my faith. It guides my life. It is a treasure."

YACINE

Society in Algeria, with support from American Bible Society's financial partners, is reaching believers, including new Christians like Idir, with the hope of God's Word. And backed by Scripture, Northern Algeria's spiritual revival is continuing, albeit quietly.

One way believers in Algeria can more safely access the Bible is on their mobile phones. A young Algerian man named Yacine, who started reading the Bible by himself in 2012, says he feels more comfortable reading Scripture on his mobile phone when he is in public.

"It strengthens my faith. It guides my life. It is a treasure," Yacine says about the Bible. "I love this verse in Psalm 94: 'Lord, how happy are those you instruct, the ones to whom you teach your law!'"

God's Word Takes Root

But technology is not the Bible Society's only means of sharing God's Word. As the only authorized provider of Bibles in Algeria, the Bible Society has partnered with Christian radio

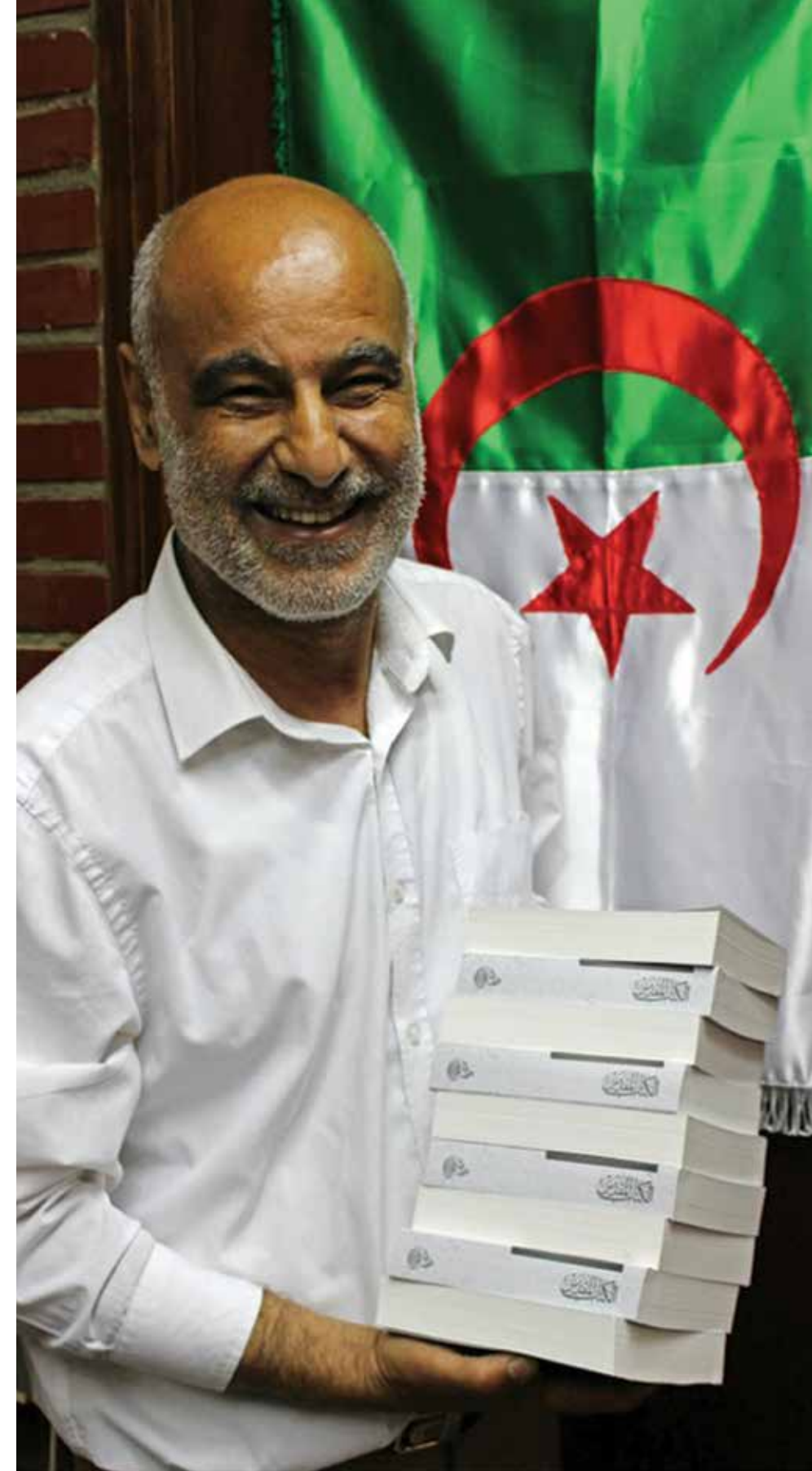
and television outlets broadcasting into the country. When audience members contact a radio or television station and ask for a Bible, they receive contact information for the Bible Society.

Delivering a requested Bible without risking the safety of the intended recipient can take years.

Take Damali.* As an illiterate woman who rarely leaves home by herself, Damali is one of the Bible Society's most typical recipients of audio Scriptures in Algeria. Several years after contacting a radio station for more information about Christianity, Bible Society in Algeria safely delivered Damali an audio Bible through her neighbor.

But the endeavor was risky. When Damali's brother discovered that she had become a Christian, he locked her in a room for three weeks. When he finally let her out, he told her, "Anything you do wrong, I'll cut your throat."

Yet God is using his Word to change hearts in Algeria—even those who were once utterly opposed to Christianity.



Bible Society in Algeria General Secretary Ali Khidri holds a stack of Bibles in front of the Algerian flag.



(Left) For their own safety, many Christians in Algeria choose to engage with God's Word via their mobile phones.

(Right) A believer in Algeria holds her well-used Bible.



A woman named Samira shared, "There was a [Christian] girl I persecuted. Yet it is through her that I heard the gospel for the first time!" Samira says. "God has amazing ways."

Unsurprisingly, Samira latched onto Jesus's teaching in Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Today, she is encouraging her family to read the Bible and follow Jesus.

"There are things I try to explain to them and I can't find the words," Samira admits. "Then I turn to the Bible and suddenly everything is clearer."

That's how spiritual revival is quietly spreading throughout Northern Algeria: One by one, people are encountering God's eternal love and forgiveness in the pages of Scripture.

Idir insists that the revival in Algeria belongs not only to his Algerian brothers and sisters, but also to the entire body of Christ, working together around the world.

"I would like to tell [the] Bible Society's donors: You are shareholders in the harvest that is taking place right now in Algeria!" Idir says. "It is thanks to you and your gifts of Bibles that thousands of souls are being saved here. Thank you so much!"

**Name has been changed to protect the beneficiary.*

Jack Newman is a writer at American Bible Society and managing editor of *Record* magazine.

To share Bibles with countries that need them most, visit ABSRecord.com/Bibles.

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Sharing God's Word Just Got Easier

American Bible Society financial partners who are at least 70½ years old can use funds from their IRA accounts to share God's Word with those who need it most, now that Congress has permanently extended the IRA charitable rollover. Converting IRA funds into a charitable gift is especially ideal for partners who:

- **Wish to make a significant gift without using cash or other assets**
- **Do not need all of their IRA income**
- **Are trying to remain in a lower tax bracket**
- **Do not itemize deductions**
- **Want to give above and beyond the 50% annual limitation on charitable gifts**

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To learn more about how American Bible Society can help convert your IRA into a life-changing gift:

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 Visit:
www.ABSGift.org

"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." -PSALM 119:105 (GNT)

Leave a Legacy that Changes Lives

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And if your situation or goals change, you can easily change this gift at any time.



Photo Credit: United Bible Societies China Partnership.

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