



LIVES CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Record

SPRING 2018

圣经

THE BIBLE
IN CHINA

PAGE 12



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



“You have the words that give eternal life.”

JOHN 6:68b

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ABOUT THE COVER

The word written in Chinese characters is “Bible,” celebrating the many Chinese dialects into which the Bible has now been translated. The image is of a free Bible distribution in Meijia, a village in eastern China. It was taken by Dag Smemo, a photographer with Norwegian Bible Society.

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 United Bible Societies, a fellowship of the Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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A MESSAGE FROM
ROY PETERSON

American Bible Society President and CEO

New life. That’s what we celebrate at Easter: Jesus rose from the grave and gave the world fresh hope. New life is also what we celebrate as people around the world meet Jesus in God’s Word—and have their lives completely transformed as a result.

I’m reminded of Romans 8:11: “If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.” This is the great promise of new life we live in and we hope to share with generations around the world.

This year marks *Record*’s 200th birthday, and these past 200 years have been filled with stories of people meeting Jesus in Scripture. These stories are monuments to God’s faithfulness—reminders to us that God’s Word does not return void.

I wish you could feel the hug of the 80-year-old Chinese believer thanking you for her first Bible. I wish you could hear the hope-filled song of the Ugandan refugee who once claimed there was no God. I wish you could see the Indian community dancing to rejoice that God shared his Word in their language.

I received that hug, heard that song, and watched that dance in your place. As you read stories from our ministries in these pages, I pray you see your role in them. Through your giving and praying, you are handing first Bibles to Chinese believers who have waited a lifetime for them. You are sharing words of peace with refugees in Jordan. You are being a witness for Jesus here in America and to the ends of the earth.

Together this Easter season, let us praise God for how he has changed lives, is changing lives, and will continue changing lives through the Bible. Amen!

Serving together,

COVER PHOTO: Dag Smemo, Norwegian Bible Society; CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY BY: Stanley, Chi-Kong Pak; OPENING SPREAD PHOTO: Clare Kendall, British and Foreign Bible Society

TOP PHOTO: Clare Kendall, British and Foreign Bible Society; BOTTOM PHOTO: Ian Oakley, British and Foreign Bible Society

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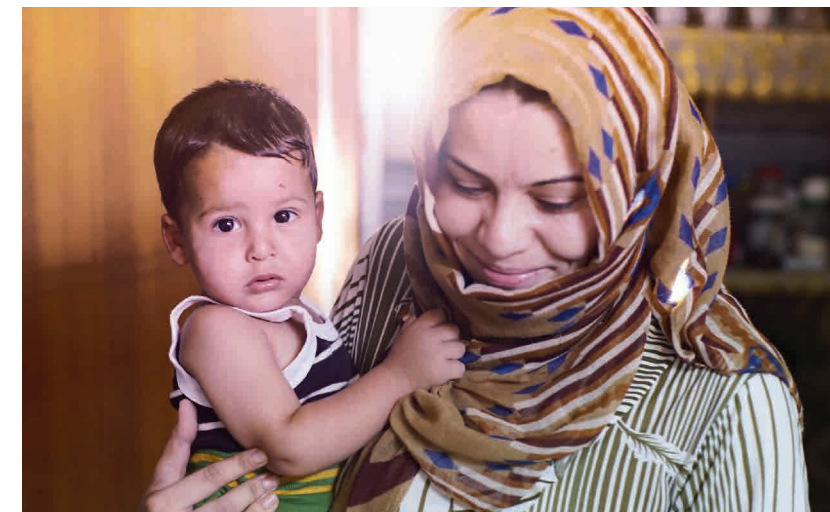
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BIBLES in FLOODS and FIRES

Survivors of Natural Disasters Find Hope in God's Word after Destruction

BY HANNAH DEMARCO

PEACE FOR AMERICANS WHO LOST IT ALL

You wake to the smell of smoke. You open your bedroom door to see flames climb up the walls of your staircase, engulfing your treasured family photos.

Your heart catches in your throat. Your eyes sting. You rush to your daughter's bedroom, scoop her into your arms, and escape.

You watch flames eat everything you own.

In 2017, natural disasters upended the lives of thousands of Americans. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma ravaged Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Wildfires raged throughout California. People lost their homes. Businesses were forced to permanently close their doors. Parents, spouses, and children were lost in fire and flood, never to return home.

At emergency shelters, survivors received basic things they never thought they'd long for so

desperately: a blanket, a toothbrush, clean socks. Their immediate physical needs were met. But their spiritual needs grew as their grief set in. They craved the peace only Scripture can give.

Just twenty-four hours after Hurricane Harvey swept through Texas, donation centers had all the clothes they needed. But there was a shortage of Bibles. We received requests from local churches across the United States that were already maxing out their resources in physical relief efforts. Our hurting communities needed God's Word.

Through you, American Bible Society was able to resource churches in devastated areas with Bibles to meet this critical need.

Thanks to you, after the crushing disasters in the final months of 2017, more than 82,800 survivors had the saving hope of God's Word placed in their hands. Thank you for providing ultimate hope to disaster survivors when everything else had been destroyed.

HEALING FOR TRAUMA SURVIVORS IN HOUSTON

Here's a truth that often goes ignored: even once you've rebuilt your life after a natural disaster, life doesn't snap back to normal. You can find a new place to live, buy new clothes, go grocery shopping—but sorrow endures. It's hard to regain a sense of stability and hope.

Our brothers and sisters in Houston are still aching after Hurricane Harvey last year. Although the news cycle has moved on, their grief has not.

Many in Houston are experiencing a wall of fear and anxiety blocking them from God. When they open a Bible, they struggle to experience the hope behind the words on the page. They need help applying the Bible's truths.

Bible-based trauma healing is essentially a crash course on how to use the Bible when life gets rough. It gives people a biblical basis for lament, and—through honest discussion and reflection on the Bible—it guides hurting people to bring their sorrow to Jesus and begin reclaiming their joy. (Read what happens in Bible-based trauma healing on page 20.)

When Amy Fields and Marilyn Davis—Bible-based trauma healing leaders trained through American Bible Society—saw the devastation in Houston, they had to help. They partnered with First Baptist Church in Houston to aid the grieving community. Through physical relief efforts and the emotional and spiritual support of Bible-based trauma healing, they shared Jesus, our true Healer.

"Bible-based trauma healing shows how the Bible applies to the trauma and grief that we experience,"

says Amy. "The Bible isn't just a theoretical book; it's very practical and can help us find meaning in loss."

Because of your support, Houston is finding meaning in loss. The city is being healed from within by the God whose love never ceases and whose promises are new every morning (Lam 3:22–23).



82,800 Scriptures distributed by American Bible Society in response to U.S. natural disasters at the end of 2017

HOUSTON <i>Hurricane Harvey</i>	37,800 <i>Scriptures</i>
MIAMI <i>Hurricane Irma</i>	5,000 <i>Scriptures</i>
PUERTO RICO <i>Hurricanes Irma and Maria</i>	24,500 <i>Scriptures</i>
NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA <i>Wildfires</i>	15,500 <i>Scriptures</i>

PRAY WITH US

- *Lord, help survivors who lost so much find a sense of home again.*
- *Lord, encourage survivors who lost loved ones to bring their grief to you and find peace in you.*
- *Lord, enable survivors who are feeling broken to discover hope for the future in you.*

THANK YOU FOR BIBLES!

from American Servicemen and Servicewomen

■ **God's Word is transforming the lives of members of our Armed Services.** We're passing on a big thank you from our Troops for the Bibles you've provided.

Here are just a few ways Scriptures you provided have helped Servicemen, Servicewomen, Veterans, and Military families:

"While I'm here at basic training, I'm not alone. The Lord is always with me." *Juan*, Army*

"I suffer from PTSD. This [Scripture] resource has allowed me to be more hopeful about my life." *Alena, Veteran*

"I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I plan on getting baptized as well." *Jamie, Marine*

"I felt very lost and heartbroken being away from my child and husband. God is what gives me strength." *Cynthia, Reserve/National Guard*

"[Reading the Bible] made me rethink my marriage and reevaluate the important things in my life. I want to center my marriage around God, and submit our marriage to him." *Marvin, Air Force*



We've been getting God's Word into the hands of our Troops and their families for more than 200 years.

God, please strengthen our Troops with your Word, give them courage to protect our country, and help them live in the peace of your presence.

*All names changed for confidentiality

THANK YOU FOR BIBLES!

from Florida teens

■ **Thousands of teens received Bibles** in more than 200 public middle and high schools in South Florida. Teens who had just accepted Christ couldn't wait to get their first personal Bible!

God, please use your Word to grow these teens' faith. Help them be an influence for you in their schools.



Through a local church partnership, American Bible Society distributed custom teen Bibles to new believers in Florida.

TOP PHOTO: Joshua Wann; BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF: Stefan Bomberger, First Priority of South Florida

RIGHT PHOTO: Joshua Wann

WHAT IF PEOPLE FOUND JESUS ON GOOGLE?

BY HANNAH DEMARCO

Of the things people googled in 2017, "the Bible" and "Jesus" don't come close to the top of the list. Mark Smith wants that to change.

Mark is the president and CEO of a compression sock company called Knit-Rite, and he uses this blessing to provide Bibles for people in his city and beyond. He says, "I like to tell people we make socks and give Bibles."

Mark's love for Jesus began with a Bible that had been tucked away in a nightstand drawer. It sat there for years until one day, Mark opened it and met the Lord. "I repented there on my living room floor," he says.

When Mark met God, he knew he couldn't keep God's love to himself. He says, "I got up, wiped the tears from my eyes, and thought, 'This is so good. Somebody's gotta be sharing this with other people.'"

On a mission to give everyone the gift of God's Word, Mark began carrying pocket Bibles to give away to people—neighbors, drive-thru attendants, restaurant servers. But Mark soon realized he couldn't seek out every person in Kansas City to give them God's Word. At least not on his own.

Search Google and Ye Shall Find Jesus

Mark said God gave him a vision of Scripture saturating people's hearts as they sat in their living rooms. He showed Mark that through online advertising, people searching for answers to life's challenges could find Scriptural answers.

Mark connected with American Bible Society—gifting \$120,000 of online advertising to reach hurting Americans with God's Word. Combining Mark's heart and our digital platform, we reach nonbelievers on their computers and smartphones.

Picture a mother whose children are all grown up and live far away. She rarely gets to see them, hug them, and play with her grandchildren. Although she knows her kids love her, she feels forgotten. She googles "what to do when you're lonely" and finds a blog written by American Bible Society. As she reads uplifting verses from God's Word, she realizes she's not alone. She recognizes God is with her—and with her children too. Her feelings of loneliness shift to feelings of thankfulness for her caring God.



Mark Smith

"If we want to have hope for our country, we've got to really effectively reach people. ... It's gonna take all of us to make it happen."

Mark Smith

"If we can reach [people] through online media and point them to the Scriptures, they can find the hope of Christ," says Mark. "I believe God's doing that through American Bible Society."

Mark is passionate about working alongside partners like you to share the love of Jesus. "If we want to have hope for our country, we've got to really effectively reach people," he says. "It's gonna take all of us to make it happen."

MALAWI

- **The first complete Bible** in Elhomwe, the language of the Lomwe people, will soon be available.
- **1.5 million Elhomwe speakers**, many of whom are laborers and refugees, have struggled with societal stigma. Now they can find their true identity in God's Word.

God, thank you for the miracle of this Bible. Please now provide resources for literacy classes so more Lomwe people can read and understand your Word.

ROMANIA

- **Bible-based trauma healing groups** are introducing Romanians to the Prince of Peace. Walls of pain built over years of political oppression are finally crumbling, making a way for God's comfort and hope.
- **250 Romanians** have already brought their pain and suffering to the cross for healing, and more than 500 will complete this journey in 2018.

God, please heal the wounds of the people of Romania and bring them hope for tomorrow.

“I have forgiven my parents because the Bible says it, and I love Jesus.”

6-year-old Naomi from Peru

PERU

- **An Audio Scripture device** is helping families listen to God's Word and grow closer to Jesus.
- **17,791 Peruvians**, many of whom live in poverty and are illiterate, are hearing God's Word in churches and schools throughout the nation—including in hard-to-reach places where there is no electricity.

God, we ask for more children to discover a love for Jesus in your Word.



Naomi found healing from past abuse by listening to God's Word over a Proclaimer™, an Audio Scripture device.

PHOTO COURTESY OF: Pastor Lucía Lizano Gómez



More than 5,200 deaf people have received video Bible stories in siSwati sign language.

SWAZILAND

- **25 Bible stories have been translated to siSwati sign language** in schools and churches, allowing members of the deaf community to experience God's Word in their heart language.
- **More than 30% of Swaziland's deaf population** will have God's Word in their heart language by the end of 2019.

God, grow Swazi communities in their love, acceptance, and care for the deaf.

GUATEMALA

- **A new Poqomchí Bible** is introducing families to the deep love of Jesus.
- **70,000 Poqomchí Maya** have been praying for a Bible in their native language for 20 years—and thanks to you, they finally have one!

God, please provide for an audio version of the Poqomchí Bible to help non-readers hear God's voice.



The new Poqomchí Bible is helping the next generation hear from God in a language they speak and understand.

“Now I'll be able to read about Jesus in my own language!”

Veronica, age 9, after receiving her Poqomchí Bible

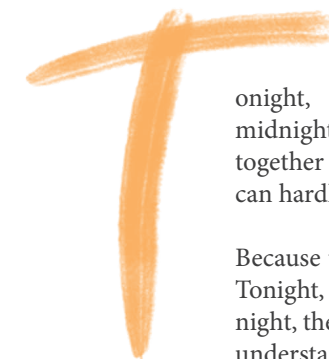
» Do you want to get the Bible into people's hands, hearts, and minds? Visit [ABS.Bible/GiveBibles](https://www.ABS.Bible/GiveBibles)

When the Bible Skips a Generation

BY LAURA CHAN

神爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们，
叫一切信他的，不至灭亡，反得永生。

JOHN 3:16



Tonight, people are staying up past midnight. Tonight, people are crowding together in churches. Tonight, people can hardly contain their excitement.

Because tonight, God visits their village. Tonight, God speaks their language. Tonight, they receive the first Bible they can understand.

You should know this story, because—along with a community of partners 300,000 strong—you delivered these Bibles.

But before we can celebrate the significance of these Bibles, we need to understand the history of Christianity in China.

For years, Chinese believers had to keep the Scriptures hidden. Secret. Quiet. Any Bibles discovered by the Red Guard were confiscated and burned.

“In the Cultural Revolution, we dug out a space in the wall behind the bricks and hid the Bible in the wall,” says Wenfu Zhang, a pastor in southern China. Many believers copied Scripture verses under the cover of night, risking their safety to memorize the words of their Savior.

Years later, after a governmental transition, the restrictions on religion were lifted. Gloriously, believers were freed to practice their faith in the open. To read God’s Word in broad daylight.



Guangen, a believer in rural China, connects with God by reading about him in the first Bible in his heart language, Black Yi.

LEFT: "Bible" in Chinese

But there was a major problem. And that problem still hasn't been fully resolved. Although believers could legally read the Bible, most didn't have one to read.

Make no mistake: Christianity is now the fastest-growing religion in the country, with more than one million people coming to faith in Jesus each year. China is also home to the world's biggest Bible printing factory, our partner Amity Press.

But there's a long way to go to recover from more than a decade of secret faith and Bible burning.

Bibles and biblical training are lacking:

- >> for rural believers who speak minority languages
- >> for older believers who are passing away after decades of hiding their faith, and
- >> for young believers who want to know the truths of God's Word.

Through your prayers and giving, you're making a difference for believers in China. How? Let us introduce you to Guangen.

WHERE GOD MEETS GUANGEN

Guangen lives high in China's Cloudy Mountains, where the air is thin. Where the mist rolls in thick. Where he says he feels close to God.

"One of my favorite passages is the one that says that God is the creator of heaven and earth," says Guangen. "We feel that in this area."

His speaks Black Yi—one of China's minority languages. China's national language is Mandarin Chinese, but China's Education Ministry reports that approximately four hundred million people—or 30 percent of the population—don't speak it. For people like Guangen from China's ethnic minority groups, having a Bible in Mandarin won't cut it.

For years, Guangen longed to hear from God in his **heart language**: the same language he prays in, barbers in, and uses to coax his chickens out to eat.

But one day, Guangen heard a beautiful rumor that

the town's pastor was going to deliver the Word of Life in Black Yi.

Could it be that God would meet us here, all the way up in the mountain, 9,000 feet above sea level?

20 BIBLES, 1 CHANGED COMMUNITY

A lot has changed in China since the Cultural Revolution. But one thing hasn't: Bibles are still as precious as ever.

It might sound small to you, but a shipment of 20 Bibles to the Cloudy Mountains of China made a big difference to the residents there.

Do you remember those believers waiting up at midnight? They were huddled in churches, watching the door, waiting for Pastor Wenfu to arrive with the Bibles that had been translated into their native tongue, Black Yi.

There weren't enough Bibles for everyone that night. But that put no damper on their enthusiasm.

The community was happy to share copies, just to read what God had to say to them in their tongue. "Everyone wanted to read it," Guangen reports. "We were all very excited to have our own copies of the Bible."

Community members held out their hands, tears streaming down their cheeks, eager to receive their treasure, their 20 Bibles. Your prayers and gifts translated, printed, and distributed these Black Yi Bibles—and 10,000 more!

Guangen was among the first to be given a Bible. "When the pastor brought the box of 20 Bibles to the village, I was so happy," Guangen says.

"When the pastor brought the box of 20 Bibles to the village, I was so happy."

GUANGEN, A CHINESE BELIEVER



What is a heart language?

Your heart language is the language you think in, pray in, and dream in. It's your first language, native language, mother tongue—the language you use to sing your daughter to sleep and say grace over a family meal. Although you may speak other languages, you are most yourself in your heart language.

We say heart language because we know God wants his Word to resonate in the depths of who we are. God wants every person on earth to understand his law and his love. That's why we're translating Scripture for the one billion people who still do not have the full Bible in their heart language—so they experience the life-changing message of God's Word.



Why Translate the Bible?

You open the Bible. You read, “While God has set the world on fire so that he is the only child of two days, he will not die and be eternal life.”

You don’t recognize John 3:16 because it’s been translated from English to Arabic and back to English to show how difficult it can be to read the Bible in a foreign language. You might know the words, but you miss the meaning.

Unfortunately, this is how millions of believers are forced to explore the Word. With no Bible in their heart language, they read Scripture in a language they barely understand—and do their best to translate it back into something they can believe. This frustrating, barely comprehensible mess of words is all they have.

That’s why Bible translation is so important. It gives everyone the same opportunity we’ve had: to meet God in his Word and see that he is good.

We don’t want anyone to miss God’s message. So we are partnering with other Bible translation organizations to translate Scripture into every living language by 2026. To learn more, visit ABS.Bible/Translation

Guangen was “so happy” because he’d waited a lifetime for his Bible. He was only 18, still a teenager, when religion was outlawed in China. By the time the worst of the restrictions had been lifted, he was nearly 30, an adult. When he was 41, he met Jesus and believed.

Guangen waited and prayed for a Bible for the next 28 years. Then, when he was 69 years old, you answered his prayers and provided a Bible for him. He finally held his first Black Yi Bible. You made Guangen “so happy.”

PRAYING FOR A MIRACLE FOR THE GENERATIONS

Guangen’s story of waiting decades for a Bible in his language is not uncommon. Many elderly people who live in China’s remote regions like Guangen have been praying for a miracle. It’s a miracle you probably open every morning. A miracle you hear quoted in church. A miracle you read to your children and grandchildren.

They have been praying to receive God’s Word in their heart language, before they pass away. For the Black Yi community, that miracle has been realized.

“I hoped that, before I died, I would have the chance to see the Bible in my own language,” says 71-year-old Xiuzhu Zhang. “I could not imagine that I would have my own Bible. It’s a miracle.”

As important as it has been for the Black Yi elders to read the Bible before their generation passes, the community finds it even more important for the next generation to be rooted in God’s Word.

During the ban on religion, the elders were unable to freely teach their children from God’s Word. Now they’re on a high-stakes mission to make up for lost time—praying fervently for Bibles to introduce their children and grandchildren to the God of miracles.

For Guangen, reaching the next generation with the Bible is personal. “My two daughters: one is a believer and one isn’t,” Guangen says. “I pray that with the Black Yi Bible, it will help them to be drawn closer to the love of God.”



Believers in Meineng Village Church celebrate the first Bibles in their heart language, Black Yi.

“I could not imagine that I would have my own Bible. It’s a miracle.”

XIUZHU ZHANG,
A 71-YEAR-OLD BELIEVER

For the Black Yi community, an important step in sharing the Bible with the next generation is hosting literacy classes. Many young students in rural Chinese areas are forced to skip school to tend to crops and livestock. As a result, they never learn to read. They’re held back from more diverse

work opportunities. More importantly, they’re blocked from reading and understanding Scripture. Through United Bible Societies China Partnership, literacy courses are being taught using the Bible—training the Black Yi community to understand the miraculous words of God.

This isn’t the end of the story. Thanks to support from people like you, Bibles and Bible study resources are being printed in China. Communities across China are learning to read God’s Word for themselves—protecting them from false teachings. Students in China are being trained as pastors to bring God’s Word back to their communities. God is on the move!

“I hope the younger people will be encouraged in their faith,” Guangen says. “I’m hopeful and believe that more will come to know the Lord personally.”

» You can give Bibles to support believers like Guangen now. Visit ABS.Bible/China



a b l e e d i n g

W O M A N

t o u c h e s

J E S U S

i n

J O R D A N

BY HANNAH DEMARCO

PHOTO: Ian Oakley, British and Foreign Bible Society

Miriam was bleeding. Her wounds, however, were invisible. They were wounds of heartache, fear, and emotional torment. She is a refugee who fled Iraq to the relative safety of Jordan, where her troubles followed her.

Miriam's husband drank. He hit her. Once, in a rage, he tried to stab her to death.

Her husband's family controlled what she ate. Sometimes, she resorted to stealing bread or tomatoes to survive. When she got pregnant, her thin frame could hardly bear the weight.

She did what she could to care for her sons—but she often found herself unleashing her hurt on them.

She was like the bleeding woman in Luke's Gospel who bled internally for twelve years with no promise of healing in sight. Miriam felt so abandoned that she tried to take her own life.

"I poured kerosene and was about to switch the lighter," she says. Her son grabbed her dress and begged her to stop. "I imagined the bleeding woman who touched Jesus," Miriam shares. "Then I stopped."

Like the bleeding woman, Miriam found healing when she brought her pain to Jesus. She revealed her wounds to him in a Bible-based trauma healing group in Jordan. There, she found strength and declared, "I am not afraid of anything now, because I have Jesus with me."

"The support of people in the States is helping refugees and families restore their hope and life and know that evil and trauma aren't the end."

HAYA KHOURY, BIBLE-BASED TRAUMA HEALING COORDINATOR FOR BIBLE SOCIETY IN JORDAN

By supporting Bible-based trauma healing, you're sharing the hope of Jesus with many refugees like Miriam. Haya Khoury, the coordinator of Bible-based trauma healing in Jordan, says, "The support of people in the States is helping refugees and families restore their hope and life and know that evil and trauma aren't the end."

IF YOU HURT LIKE MIRIAM

Imagine you've experienced the kind of trauma Miriam has endured. You feel broken and helpless—incapable of sharing your pain.

Someone in your community notices you're withdrawn and recommends Bible-based trauma healing. You're skeptical, but desperate.

Turn the page to discover what happens when you join a Bible-based trauma healing group. >>

What Happens in Bible-Based Trauma Healing



1. LISTEN

Once a week, in a small group of 6-8 people, you hear stories of suffering, and a trained facilitator helps you talk through them. Talking through others' deep pain helps you work through your own.

Throughout this process, you read Scripture passages that remind you of God's love and presence in the midst of your suffering.



2. LAMENT

You discuss what grief looks like, and you learn that lament is grief with a voice. Looking to Scripture for examples, you discover that laments are a biblical way of working through pain with God.

You write your own lament. When words cannot capture your heartache, you draw your grief in a therapeutic art exercise. You begin to open up and tell others your story. You cry for the first time in months.



3. LET GO

The facilitator reads Bible passages about Jesus's pain. You feel like the words are written about you. As you look at the cross placed in the room, you think of how Jesus suffered just like you. You discover that Jesus is the Wounded Healer, a God who intimately understands your suffering. And, more than that, he has conquered it—and invites you into a life of greater resilience.

You write down the deepest wounds of your heart as your grief flows onto a special sheet of dissolvable paper. You place your dissolvable paper in a bucket of water at the foot of Jesus's cross. As you watch the paper dissolve, you feel your hurt dissolve. Your pain is replaced with a sense of hope that maybe this is not the end, but a new beginning. You begin the journey to reclaiming your joy. Just like Miriam.



You can share Scripture's healing power with people who are suffering. Visit [ABS.Bible/JesusHeals](https://www.abs.bible/JesusHeals)

WHEN MIRIAM TOUCHED JESUS

“When I took part in the trauma healing, I felt that I can breathe again,” Miriam says. “I needed someone to listen to me. I needed to tell someone what had happened to me.”



Refugees in Jordan in a Bible-based trauma healing group—bringing their pain to Jesus, who identifies with their suffering.

“I am the bleeding woman who Jesus released.” MIRIAM, AN IRAQI REFUGEE

Miriam sees God differently.

Before, Miriam thought God was untouchable, distant, and full of judgment. Now, she says, “Sometimes I feel that I can see God, that I am touching him.”

Miriam sees her family differently.

Before, like many people suffering from trauma, Miriam passed her pain and abuse onto her sons. Now, freed from the cycle of trauma and abuse, she says, “All the love I get from Jesus I give to my children.”

Miriam sees herself differently.

Before, Miriam saw herself as broken: bleeding from her emotional wounds, shamed into silence and isolation. Now, she sees herself as a beloved child of God. Miriam declares, “I am the bleeding woman who Jesus released.”

Thanks to partners like you, Miriam has something she never had before: hope. “The Bible has been life-changing for me,” she shares, “I don't want to go backwards. I want to go forwards.”

PHOTO: Ian Oakley, British and Foreign Bible Society

IN MEMORIAM



in memory of our daughter
Laura Ellen Mathena Holmes
given by Troy and Helen Mathena

in memory of
John R. Mathias
given by Agnes J. Mathias

in memory of
Arnold A. Ohst
given by Philip and Debra Lange

in memory of our mother
Corrine Kirchner Petersen
given by Ron and Diane Kolberg

Honor the memory of a loved one by providing Bibles to people who don't yet have them. Memorials of \$500 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in *Record*.

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Q U I E T T I M E

Get the Most out of Your Daily Bible Reading

BY LAURA CHAN

When I was in high school, I had the habit of reading the Bible in bed at night. I'd hold my Bible up over my eyes, and as I got sleepier and sleepier, the verses would get closer and closer to my face. Most mornings, I'd wake up feeling the pressure of the book on my nose and roll over in a panic. To be frank, although I was reading my Bible every night, I wasn't retaining much of it. I was going through the motions, missing the true motivation.

Jesus, however, teaches us to feed on the Bible, using it for nourishment for our everyday lives. He reminds us, "Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks" (Matt 4:4).

"Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us."

ROMANS 15:4

In 1 Peter 2:2, we're encouraged, "Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved."

When I learned to experience the Bible this way—thirsting after its promises and growing in its hope—I found true life in its words. I discovered how it made my relationship with Jesus fuller. I no longer wanted to check reading it off my list. Instead, I wanted to absorb it.

Here are steps for how we can get the most out of our daily Bible reading:

PRAY for focus and openness to see what God has for you in his Word.

READ the selected passage of Scripture slowly. Notice words and phrases that stick out to you; reread them.

REFLECT on what God is communicating to you through the Scripture you've read.

RESPOND to the passage. Speak to God directly about what's on your mind and heart. Look for ways to live out what you've uncovered.

ENHANCE your Bible reading with a daily Bible reading guide or with a daily devotional sent to your email. Visit ABS.Bible/DailyBible

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Board member Cheryl Holland and her daughter, Hannah, distribute first Bibles to believers in rural China.

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Like many of you, Cheryl Holland named American Bible Society in her Will. Cheryl and her husband, Doug, are excited to be part of reaching generations to come with God's Word. *"It's wonderful to be a part of God's calling in that way,"* says Cheryl.

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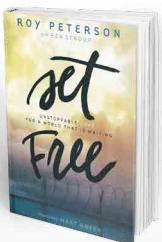


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