

LIVES CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Record

SPRING 2019

THE WAIT IS OVER

You gave Chinese Christians their first Bibles

PAGE 10



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

Your word, O LORD,
will last forever;
it is eternal in heaven.
Your faithfulness
endures through all
the ages . . .

📖 PSALM 119:89-90



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ABOUT THE COVER

Cuiting Song (front, holding Bible) leads two Bible study groups. In these groups, she spends around two and a half hours every day worshiping, praying, and reading the Bible. Cuiting and her friends were overjoyed to receive personal copies of the Bible in 2018. Photo credit: Hans J. Sagrusten, 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

This issue of *Record* contains stories that start in dark places. Violence. Oppression. Persecution. Praise God, however, that they don't stay there! When God's Word enters the scene, a person's whole perspective shifts. The Bible brings hope that sustains us even when the world hits us with its worst.

I am thankful that, in times like these, we have God's Word to encourage us. I am thankful that believers who have Bibles are discovering the solace of Scripture. I am thankful that friends like you across America are sharing the truth of Jesus.

As you live according to this purpose, know that my wife Rita and I are praying for you. In fact, all of American Bible Society is praying for you. Every morning our staff comes together to pray for faithful partners like you.

Our heart for you is the same as Paul's for the church community in Philippi; we pray that you would be free from worry and filled with peace as you await the great day of the Lord's return.

The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:5b-7)

Thank you for trusting in the power of Scripture. Thank you for proclaiming that sickness and sorrow aren't the end of the story. Thank you for making an eternal difference in the lives of so many. I pray you and yours experience the deep peace of Jesus this spring.

Serving together,

P.S. You're invited to join us in prayer for ministry around the globe. **Call 1-844-227-7564 on June 13 at 12 p.m. EST to pray with us.**

Record

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LOVE YOUR ENEMY

Scripture helps kidnapped Syrian woman show the love of Jesus

COVER PHOTO: Hans J. Sagrusten, Norwegian Bible Society; OPENING SPREAD PHOTO: Clare Kendall, British and Foreign Bible Society

TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Hans J. Sagrusten, Norwegian Bible Society; BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Joel Canlier, iStock



COMBAT CALM

ARMED WITH THE TRUTH
OF GOD'S WORD

BY WINDSOR MARCHESI

DAVID*, a U.S. Army Soldier, picked up a camouflage Bible when he arrived at basic training. “It changed my outlook on Scripture, it showed me how personally the Word of God can be taken, and I’ve found ways to incorporate that into my everyday life,” he says. “It’s incredible how much meaning you can find in each Scripture when you look for it.”

David was one of 592,453 Military members who received God’s Word in 2018 because of you. Now, he has more peace, joy, and contentment in facing each day’s challenges.

We called David to thank him for his service and learn more about his faith journey. Here’s what he had to say.

Q *Why do you think reading the Bible is important?*

A Reading Scripture became one of the most rewarding experiences—especially when combined with prayer. When I searched for the meaning that God put into his Word, it opened my eyes. . . . It’s guaranteed that one verse will resonate with me. And that little bit of connection with God brightens up even the darkest time. It’s also why my Bible is littered with sticky notes!

Q *How does God speak to you through his Word?*

A Almost always, God finds some way to speak through Scripture to me. It’s an experience that has kept me enthusiastic and motivated in the year I’ve been in. Recently, I opened the Bible at a time when I was troubled with problems back home and past issues. I read Philippians 3:13–14:

Of course, my friends, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God’s call through Christ Jesus to the life above.

The euphoria and following peace I felt—both with where I am and where I’m going—was incredible. It’s not about being happy, it’s about being content with who I am and what I have to do. Personally, I believe if more people followed that to heart, more people would be happy in their careers and lives as a whole.

Q *Why do you think everyone should be able to access the Bible?*

A I think it’s an absolute need. Too many people take their faith for granted—it’s something they’re born into and they just accept it. But you can have a personal relationship with God if you take him, and what it means to be a Christian, to heart. Reading the Bible is the first step in doing that.

Q *Do you have a message for our partners?*

A Your generosity and kindness is incredibly impactful—especially for new Soldiers like myself. Access to Bibles, crosses, and church services are what helps young men and women start a spiritual journey. The stress and challenges that accompany military service have led so many people to reflect spiritually in a way I’ve never seen. And the men and women that take the effort to reach out and share it create an effect that stays with many Soldiers.

Q *How can we pray for you?*

A Please pray that I keep my motivation. I’m at a point where Scripture and God help me wake up every morning with a smile—and that’s something you don’t see too much. I never want to lose it! 🙏

*David, whose name and identity remain undisclosed for privacy reasons, is an active duty Cavalry Scout in the U.S. Army.

EL SALVADOR

On average:

- ▶ **25,000 gang members** in the streets, plus another 9,000 in jail
- ▶ **1 girl or woman killed** every 18 hours
- ▶ **9 out of 10 businesses** are being extorted



In 2018, Bible-based trauma healing was introduced in El Salvador to help people cope with this violence. Already:

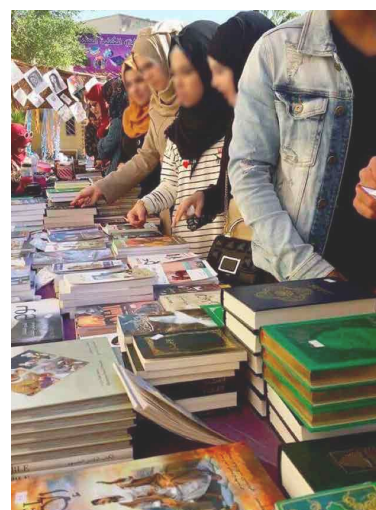
- ▶ **200 people** joined trauma healing groups
- ▶ **36 people** were trained to lead trauma healing groups and identify other future leaders
- ▶ **52 teens** were led through a scriptural journey of healing

“I remember what a Muslim named Muhammed recently said to me. ‘The only solution to Iraq is Jesus Christ.’”

—NABIL OMIESH OF BIBLE SOCIETY IN IRAQ

IRAQ

3,000 people with no Christian background recently received Bibles at a secular book fair in Northern Iraq.



CHARLOTTE, NC, USA

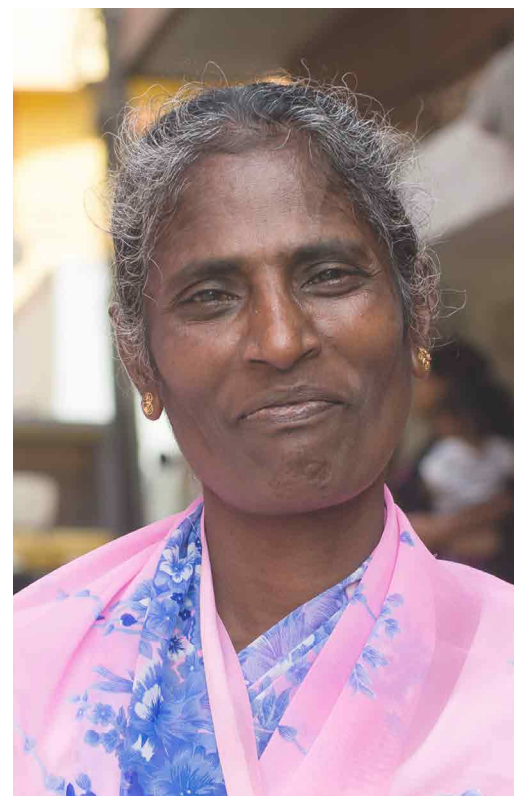
50 years after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., 16 churches across Charlotte, N.C., paired up for a Bible study on race. More than 200 people participated in crosscultural Bible studies.



INDIA

8,000 widows in India who are living in extreme poverty recently received Bibles, thanks to you.

Grace, a widow who received a Bible, says: “Two years before the death of my husband, I became a Christian. . . . My family did not accept that. I was no longer welcome, and they spread all kinds of lies about me. Even though my family has let me down, I know that God will not let me down. Every day I read my Bible [in the Tamil language], and I am comforted by God’s Word.”



PHILADELPHIA, PA, USA

- ▶ **November 2018:** American Bible Society broke ground on the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center (FLDC), an immersive experience exploring the ways the Bible shaped America’s values of love, liberty, unity, justice, faith, and hope.
- ▶ **Fall 2020:** The FLDC plans to open its doors in historic Old City, Philadelphia.
- ▶ **250,000 visitors** are expected to visit the FLDC each year.

PHILIPPINES

2.6 million speakers of the three dialects of Waray, a Filipino language, received the New Testament in their language in November 2018, the 119th anniversary of the Philippine Bible Society.



Give Bibles to waiting hands and open hearts. Go online to **give.bible**

PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT: Pablo Langlois, Bible Society of El Salvador; Tyrus Ortega Gaines; Lina Musharbash, Bible Society in Jordan; Joyce van de Veen, Netherlands Bible Society; Philippine Bible Society; Doug Nottage, American Bible Society



B E Y O N D T H E B A N

THE BIBLE
BREAKS BARRIERS
IN CHINA
TO REACH A
90-YEAR-OLD

BY WINDSOR MARCHESI

It's 3:00 a.m. Ma Wen's eyes blink open in the predawn quiet of her room.

Immediately, waves of excitement roll through her body. Even at ninety years old, she can hardly keep herself from leaping out of bed to start the day-long journey that lies ahead.

Today, the book once banned by her country will be hers to hold. The very words of God will be on pages she can touch. Embrace. Absorb. Embody.

Today, at ninety years old, Ma Wen will finally receive her own Bible.

GROWING OLD WITHOUT GOD

Ma Wen didn't meet Jesus until she was sixty-five years old.

When she was in her forties, she saw what China's Cultural Revolution meant for Christians. From 1966 to 1976, church doors were nailed shut. All religious meetings were banned. Bibles were confiscated and burned.

PHOTO: Hans J. Sagrusten, Norwegian Bible Society



G O D O P E N E D

M A W E N ' S E Y E S

She heard of Chinese Christians meeting secretly, congregating in homes, small groups, even caves and forests. She recognized the danger. The risk. The suffering.

But Ma Wen also saw a group of people with an unwavering commitment to God.

She contemplated these truths as the years passed. Marriage, home, family, life—one year turned to many. Ma Wen somehow managed to grow up and grow old without God—until an unbearable weight of suffering settled upon her.

G O D R E S C U E S M A W E N

At sixty-five years old, sickness struck Ma Wen—and so did panic. “There was no doctor who could help me,” she says, remembering the paralyzing hopelessness.

One night, in a vivid dream, Ma Wen felt God urging her to connect with some Christians in her village. Though she couldn’t describe how, she knew deep within her being that it was the Lord’s direction—and she chose to follow his prompting.



M A W E N L O N G E D

F O R A B I B L E

The group of believers welcomed her with open arms. They lovingly prayed with her—and something miraculous happened. Ma Wen says, “I accepted the Lord, and he made me completely healthy!”

With a renewed mind and body, Ma Wen’s walk with Jesus began that day at sixty-five years old. She found the missing piece. Answers were revealed. The fullness of life began.

And she gives him all the credit. “It was God who chose me,” she says.

T H E R E T U R N O F T H E B I B L E

New to Christian faith and desiring to grow in her understanding of God’s Word, Ma Wen longed to have her own Bible. But this was still a challenge for believers in China. Although the Bible ban lifted in 1978, very few Bibles existed

It’s working. Bibles are back. And they’re making their way into the hands of people all over China—and the world.

M A W E N H O L D S T H E H O L Y W O R D

It’s a massive crowd. Voices are high, clamoring over each other. Figures bump and jostle their way through the room. Her daughter stands next to Ma Wen in loving support. She knows what this means to her mother, who reaches over and squeezes her hand.

“How many don’t have a Bible?” the pastor asks from the front of the packed church.



Y O U P U T A B I B L E

I N M A W E N ' S H A N D S

after the purge—and those that did were hard to come by.

Through the support and prayers of faithful partners like you, the Amity Printing Press was established in 1987. The goal? To meet the Bible demand. To print, multiply, and share God’s Word. To reach people with Jesus’s message of hope.

Arms shoot up around the room.

Ma Wen’s 90-year-old hand reaches high, held up by years of wait.

Then it happens. A Bible makes its way towards her. Reaching out, her long fingers grip the precious book and draw it close. A smile stretches across her face, spanning the room.



N O W M A W E N S A Y S

“ T H A N K Y O U ! ”

“This Bible is very precious to me!” Her words burst out. “This is my first Bible!”

Her daughter’s eyes brim with joy.

A T H O U S A N D T H A N K S

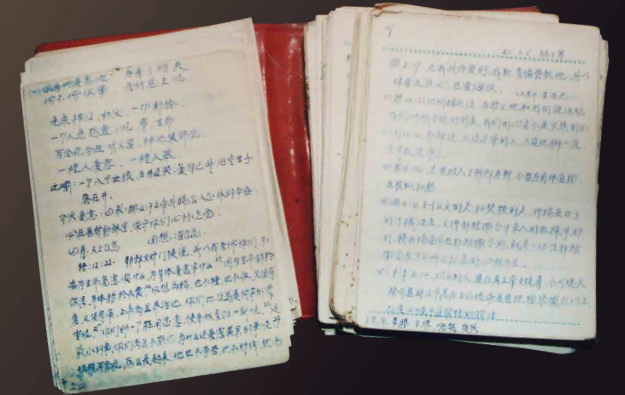
Now, Ma Wen holds and beholds the truths of Scripture. She is moved to tears by the

miraculous work of the cross. She celebrates God’s patient grace as she journeys on in her rich relationship with Jesus. She is united in Spirit with believers all over the world.

“I feel we are one family,” she says. “We are brothers and sisters in Jesus. In him we are one.” In Ma Wen’s eyes, you’re God’s messenger of hope. You made a way for this 90-year-old to

Did you know?

“I WANT TO THANK YOU A THOUSAND TIMES, BECAUSE YOU ARE SO GENEROUS. I AM SO HAPPY AND THANKFUL FOR HAVING A BIBLE TODAY!”



tightly hug a once banned book. And for that, Ma Wen is eternally grateful.

“I want to thank you a thousand times, because you are so generous. I am so happy and thankful for having a Bible today!”



Give Bibles to waiting Chinese Christians like Ma Wen. Visit give.bible/china

Story adapted from an interview by Hans J. Sagrusten of Norwegian Bible Society

- » During times when Bibles were scarce in China, some Scriptures were hand-copied and shared.
- » In its short 32 years of operation, Amity Printing Press has become the largest Bible printing press in the world.
- » Over 180 million Bibles have been printed by Amity Printing Press—80 million of which were distributed throughout China.
- » The need is great! Millions are still waiting for their first Bible. Will you pray for God to speak to these believers as they wait?

LOVE YOUR ENEMY



WHEN A YOUNG SYRIAN IS KIDNAPPED BY
TERRORISTS, SCRIPTURE GIVES HER THE POWER
TO FORGIVE AND TO HEAL

BY LAURA CHAN

“**Y**ou dog,” Maria’s captor spits the words at her. Maria stays very still. She is blindfolded but can sense the room is full of people. Sounds of others being tortured echo around her, and she tries not to hear. Her skin crawls. Her stomach aches. The fear is physical. But she won’t let it win. She prays, God, be with me.

Coming of age during Syria’s Civil War, Maria had gotten used to fear so thick you could touch it. Neighbor turning against neighbor. Empty city streets and emptier hearts.

Then, at twenty-three years old, Maria was kidnapped by Jabhat al-Nusra, a Syrian offshoot of al-Qaeda.

Maria’s mother was also taken, along with others from their community. The group was held underground to avoid detection. Over twenty-two months of captivity, they were moved from place to place without rationale. They were treated like the hostages they were.

If you met Maria today, however, this isn’t the story she’d tell. She’d say, “I felt like it was God’s intention to put me in this situation. All this brought me closer to God and strengthened my belief.” She’d tell you of the restorative power of Scripture in times of despair. She’d tell you how she’s now bringing the healing power of Scripture to fellow Syrians.

PHOTO: Mohammed Abed, Getty Images



A Syrian boy scales a pile of rubble in rebel-held Eastern Ghouta on the outskirts of Syria's capital, Damascus. This region has been under government siege since 2013.

PHOTO: Amer Almohtibany, AFP/Getty Images

SYRIA'S CIVIL WAR

To understand how radical Maria's journey has been, it's helpful to first have a broader picture of what's been happening in Syria.

For eight years now, Syria has been in upheaval. After uprisings toppled the presidencies in Tunisia (2010) and Egypt (2011), revolutions known as the "Arab Spring" swept across the Arab world. In March 2011, protests erupted in Syria. Tensions escalated when the Syrian government responded forcefully to the protests. Rebel groups and terrorist cells from Syria and abroad quickly joined the fight. Foreign interests and backing from countries like Russia, Turkey, and the United States added to the complexity of the power struggle.

Civilians have been tragically caught in the middle of these political divides. Millions have fled Syria to seek refuge in nearby countries like Lebanon and Jordan. Millions more have remained in the instability—most without jobs or security. Eight years later, the news never shows Syria's ancient citadels and shimmering textiles; it only reports rubble and despair.

Maria's story is set in relief to this backdrop of war. Hers is a modern-day Bible story of Jesus providing miraculous comfort to Syrians in the heart of the conflict.

FAITH IN CAPTIVITY

"It was clear to us that God was with us from day to day," Maria says of her time as a hostage.

Maria and her mother were different from their fellow captives in one critical way; Maria and her mother are Christians. Despite their horrific situation, they never questioned their faith. They never gave in to the hostility.

"I experienced how God protected us from evil people who did not wish us any good," says Maria. "God saved us through all these difficulties. And he used us as witnesses!"

When their captors derided Maria and her mother, they returned kind words. When their faith was mocked, they silently prayed, *Forgive them, Father*. Every day, they looked with love at their guards. *What if they knew the Jesus we know? How would their story change?*

In the darkest of circumstances, God was present. The guards told Maria and her mother that they would release them if they would convert to Islam. They refused. One day, instead of asking them to convert, a guard asked a surprising question: "Can you tell me what you believe in?"

"We told the guards about our faith," she explains. "As Muslims, they only had theoretical knowledge about Christianity. We tried through our lives to show them what Christian faith really is. They had only heard of Jesus, but I had the opportunity to testify of Jesus's love and that God loves all people. This was something completely different from the Christianity they had heard of but not experienced."

In that moment, the harsh strain of captivity faded. Maria found a greater purpose behind her suffering. When Maria and her mother were finally released almost two years later, their guards told them, "We have learned to become fond of Jesus because of you."

MARIA'S MOVE FROM CAPTIVE TO COUNSELOR

Although Maria knew God's comfort during her captivity, she wasn't exempt from emotional fallout from what she'd endured.

“WE HAVE LEARNED TO BECOME FOND OF JESUS BECAUSE OF YOU.”

—Guards who held Maria and her mother hostage

Syrians like Maria who have experienced the physical and mental atrocities of war need the comfort of the God of Scripture. Unfortunately, trauma can silence God’s promises and replace them with questions like, *Why would a good God allow suffering?*

Maria knows the hard questions a hurting heart asks in the middle of the night. That’s why she, already a certified psychologist, chose to be trained to facilitate Bible-based trauma healing groups. Trauma healing helps individuals process traumatic life events by studying and applying Scripture. In a safe space, participants hear what God says about suffering and embark on a healing journey.

For Maria, this journey has led to radical forgiveness. “I do not have any anger or hatred toward God or people after this time. If I now met the women who were my guards, I would perhaps thank them,” she says. “I actually thank God for this experience.”

As a trauma healing facilitator, Maria is using her experiences to tell others that God can use a journey of suffering for his good. Thanks to your support, approximately seventy women and five hundred children participate in these Bible-based trauma healing groups in Syria each month.

YOU TELL SYRIANS THERE’S HOPE

Maria’s story is only one of the many incredible testimonies we hear of how God is at work, even in the world’s harshest circumstances. Syrians like Maria are discovering the peace and comfort of Jesus through Bible-based trauma healing and other Scripture resources.

“In the same way that people need light, warmth, and food, they need spiritual food,” says George Andrea, who leads Bible Society in Syria. “In this difficult time, it is important to the family to get hope and comfort through the Word of God. It is as the Bible says: ‘The Lord is our refuge.’”

Over the past year, thanks to generous partners like you, ten thousand Scripture Portions were printed and distributed to hurting Syrians.

“People still request Bibles, New Testaments, and other biblical books,” says George. The Bible Society is the main organization importing Christian literature into Syria. George says, “Even during the siege of Aleppo, we managed to provide books.”

Like Maria, George has chosen to remain in Syria to help share the hope of Jesus with others

who are hurting—despite the risk to him and his family. “We are still here in Syria because of the prayers of people all over the world. We feel this intercession constantly. The prayers of believing people are what keep us going,” he says. “We lay all our worry in God’s hands.”

Your support provides Bibles and resources like Bible-based trauma healing to Syrians in need. Thank you for stepping into this critical moment in history and offering Jesus’s love. May many say about you what Maria’s guards said about her: “We have learned to become fond of Jesus because of you.” ■



HOW CAN I PRAY?

- Jesus, be with Syrians like Maria who have experienced atrocities no person should have to experience. Remind them you too were wounded as you hung on the cross—and that you are eager to take on their pain and walk with them through their sorrow.
- God, encourage Bible-based trauma healing facilitators like Maria as they hear and respond to the wounds of others. Give them strength and hope for the future.
- Holy Spirit, speak to the hearts of the guards who held Maria and her mother hostage. Bring many more Syrians to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Story adapted from an interview by Dag K. Smemo of Norwegian Bible Society.



SYRIA TODAY

- >> **5.6 million refugees** have fled Syria to date
- >> **80% of Syria’s** remaining population live in poverty
- >> **50% of Syria’s** remaining children aren’t in school

BIBLICAL SYRIA

- >> The apostle Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Syria, around 34 AD
- >> Matthew 4:24 says news of Jesus’s healings spread across all of Syria
- >> Some Christians in Maaloula, Syria, still speak Aramaic, Jesus’s language



IN MEMORIAM

in memory of my parents
Myrle Bly & Lois Bly
given by Ronald Bly

in memory of my son
Paul Bly
given by Ronald Bly

in memory of
Bub Borman
given by The Shepard Family

in memory of my husband
Kenneth W. Brynestad
given by Alice M. Brynestad

in memory of my husband
Rev. Charles E. Fair
given by Mrs. C. Louise Fair

in memory of my parents
Alice Falk & Art Falk
given by Ruth Ann Henson

in memory of my brother
David A. Falk
given by Ruth Ann Henson

in memory of
**Maria de los Angeles
Agrelo Gonzalez**
given by Norma J. Bonen

in memory of my husband
Pastor Ted Krueger
given by Darlene Krueger

in memory of
Carolyn Lipez
given by Ronald Lipez

in memory of my husband
Dr. Van Kirke Nelson
given by Helen Nelson

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

in memory of my husband
Hans Schafft
given by Lillian R. Schafft

in memory of my brother
William George Shuster
given by Ronald Shuster

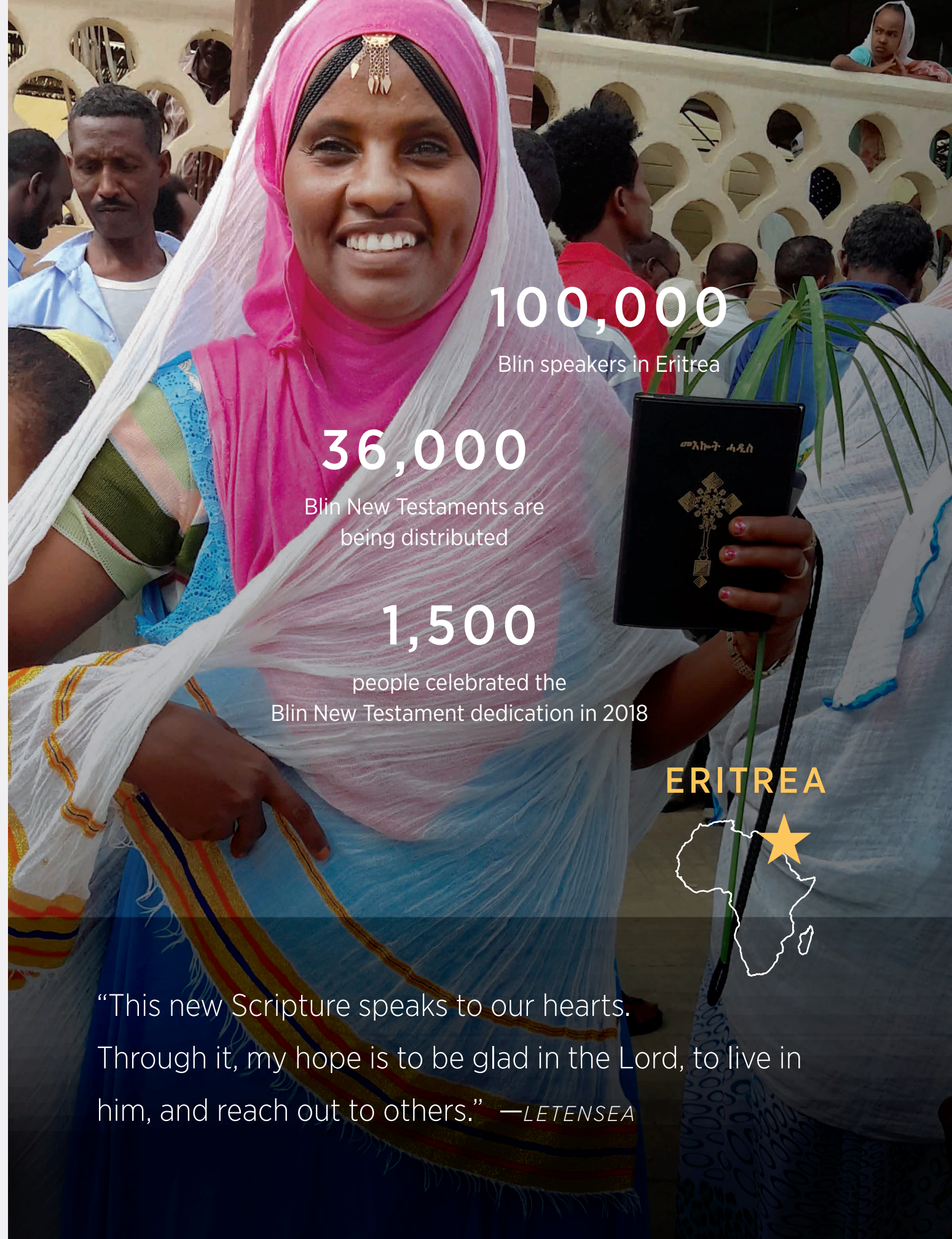
in memory of
Rev. Kenneth Smith Sr.
given by Keith P. Robinson

in memory of my mother
Helen S. Way
given by Susan E. Way

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*. For further details about the memorial process, please contact our Partner Care team at: 866-895-4448

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100,000

Blin speakers in Eritrea

36,000

Blin New Testaments are
being distributed

1,500

people celebrated the
Blin New Testament dedication in 2018

ERITREA



“This new Scripture speaks to our hearts. Through it, my hope is to be glad in the Lord, to live in him, and reach out to others.” —LETENSEA

RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF: Bible Society of Eritrea

Discover Joy

IN GOD'S PROMISES

this Easter

BY HANNAH DEMARCO

I had been waiting my whole life for what my parents had promised me.

Okay, so it was only a few months. But to my six-year-old brain, it was an eternity. When I finally got to cuddle the fulfillment of my parents' promise—a fluffy puppy of my very own—I discovered it was worth the wait.

I often feel this kind of longing around Easter time: the longing that aches with promise. Here's the beautiful paradox of our faith—we rejoice because of what our God has already fulfilled, but we also long for the fulfillment to come.

Jesus loves us. But we still ache. He rose victorious from the dead. But our loved ones still suffer. We celebrate God's victory. But we still live with addiction and poverty and

war. In Jesus, we are whole and holy. But we still live with disappointment and sin.

In all this, it can be hard to hold on to God's promises. However, this Easter season, we can cling to the hope of God's Word while longing for what will be fulfilled in the future. We can rest in God's love for us while longing for the day when all will be made right. We can find God's joy while waiting for the joy to come.

This Easter, ask yourself: *How can I cling to God's promises every day?*

Take some time each Sunday leading up to Easter to meditate on one of the five promises on the following page. Write each week's verse somewhere you will see it often (like your bathroom mirror!), and pray for God to remind you of his promise for you that week.

GOD'S PROMISES

MARCH
24th

GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.'" Hebrews 13:5

MARCH
31st

GOD WILL LISTEN TO YOUR WORRIES.

"Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

APRIL
7th

GOD WILL STRENGTHEN YOU.

"But those who trust in the LORD for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak." Isaiah 40:31

APRIL
14th

GOD MAKES ALL THINGS NEW.

"Then the one who sits on the throne said, 'And now I make all things new!' He also said to me, 'Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted.'" Revelation 21:5

EASTER
Sunday

WITH GOD, YOU ARE VICTORIOUS.

"Where, Death, is your victory? Where, Death, is your power to hurt?' Death gets its power to hurt from sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" 1 Corinthians 15:55-57



Discover more of God's promises when you read his Word every day. Start at

abs.bible/bible2019

LESSONS FROM GRANDPA'S CHAIR

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH A GRANDDAUGHTER AND WITH THE WORLD

BY HANNAH DEMARCO

Little Gabby tip-toes up the stairs. She can barely reach the handle to her grandparents' bedroom door, but her sticky fingers still twist the doorknob with all their might. She peeks inside and discovers just what she was hoping to see: her grandfather, Anthony, sitting in his big black chair with a Bible in his hands.

Early morning sun pushes through the blinds, but Nancy, Gabby's grandmother, is still fast asleep. Gabby shuffles quietly to her grandfather. He smiles, scoops her up, and begins reading her his favorite Scripture verses, Ephesians 2:4-5: "But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved."

AN EXAMPLE OF LOVE

Gabby's grandpa and grandma passed in 2015, but they left a powerful legacy. Gabby continues to live by God's Word because her grandparents showed her how to live out the truths of the Bible. Gabby and her grandparents

memorized Scripture together so she could turn to God's Word even when she didn't have a Bible in her hands. Each week they gathered around the dinner table, Bibles and highlighters in hand. "Having the Word written on your heart was very important to them," says Gabby, "It was a part of our daily rhythm of life."

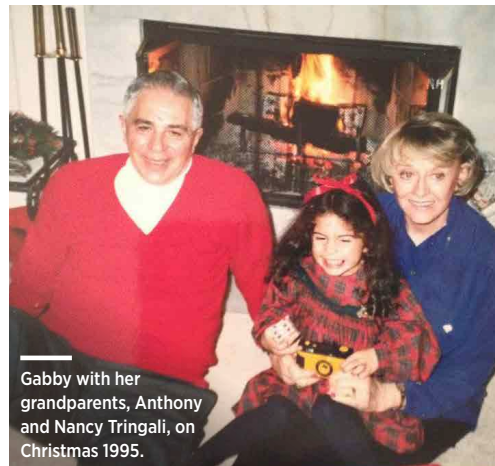
Years later, Gabby still reaches for her Bible all the time. She's living out the example her grandparents set for her.

A BIBLE FOR EVERYONE

Anthony and Nancy Tringali longed for everyone to fall in love with God's Word. That's why they partnered with American Bible Society to bring the

Bible to every person in the world. When they remembered us in their trust, they continued their legacy of inspiring others to treasure Scripture.

We're grateful to work alongside Bible champions like Nancy and Anthony—and you! Partners like you keep God's Word alive in the hearts of the next generation. Thank you for choosing to include us in your mission to share God's Word with the world. 📖



Gabby with her grandparents, Anthony and Nancy Tringali, on Christmas 1995.



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




LEAVE AN ETERNAL LEGACY

When you name American Bible Society in your Will, you create a legacy to bless future generations with the precious gift of God's Word.

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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