

LIVES CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Record

FALL 2021

YOU ARE MY HERO

**YOUR SUPPORT
DELIVERS GOD'S LOVE
TO MILITARY KIDS.**

PAGE 16



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY



“Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

📖 MATTHEW 19:14

LEADERSHIP

Board Chair
Karen McDonald
President and CEO
Robert Briggs

Leadership Team
John Clause
Janet Grell
Steven Kao
Whitney Kuniholm
Nicole Martin
Ovidio Alfaro
James Puchy

RECORD STAFF

Executive Editor
Bran Van Deinse
Editor-in-Chief
Jack Newman
Art Director
Caleb Komorowski
Production
Brian Maloney

CONTACT

American Bible Society Record
ABSRecord@AmericanBible.org

Bible-A-Month™ Partnership
888-227-8262
BAMInfo@AmericanBible.org

Bible Requests
800-32-BIBLE
Bibles.com
Info@AmericanBible.org

Gift Planning Programs
(for Stock or Real Estate Gifts, Gift Annuities, Charitable Trusts, Bequests, Wills, and free Estate Planning Services) 215-309-0900
GiftPlanner@AmericanBible.org

Partner Care
866-895-4448
ABSDonor@AmericanBible.org

GET UPDATES

Twitter.com/AmericanBible
Facebook.com/AmericanBible
Instagram.com/AmericanBible

ABOUT THE COVER

Hero Squad is a new care package program from American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry. It delivers a Bible and weekly devotionals straight into the hands and heart of a military child. Your monthly support sends a quarterly gift box full of activities, clothing, and gifts for the whole military family to enjoy. It's the perfect gift from a grateful nation. Learn more at Give.Bible/HeroSquad.

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 Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

Published since 1818, American Bible Society's Record is the official periodical of American Bible Society and the second-oldest continuous publication in the United States. It is sent to as many of our supporters as budget allows. Postage is paid in Philadelphia, PA, and additional mailing offices.

Other publications are encouraged to reprint the text of any Record article, but prior written permission must be obtained from American Bible Society Record to reproduce any images. Publications reprinting the text of a Record article must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the Record at 101 North Independence Mall East FL8, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155. Questions for the Record editor can be emailed to absrecord@americanbible.org.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the Good News Translation® © 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.



Face to Face and Heart to Heart

A message from Robert L. Briggs,
American Bible Society President and CEO

Dear Friends,

As you are reading this, many of my colleagues at American Bible Society are in the process of returning to our Philadelphia headquarters after a lengthy season of working from home full time. We've been working hard to keep our team safe and praying earnestly for the continued suppression of the COVID virus. I can't tell you how happy I am to finally be reunited—face to face—with dear friends and passionate co-laborers in this gospel mission. I resonate with the words of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:17 (ESV), where he writes: "But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face."

I like to think of Record magazine as American Bible Society's humble attempt to bring you the sweet joy of face-to-face connection that I have been reveling in these past few weeks. In this issue, you will meet so many happy, smiling faces—happy and smiling because you gave them the precious gift of God's Word.

Gang members, military children, elderly believers in China, and remote people groups are all eager to see you face to face. If they could, they'd give you a great big hug and say, "Thank you, dear friend, for bringing me a Bible when I needed God the most." One day, if not on this earth then in God's heavenly kingdom, you will meet these precious brothers and sisters in the flesh. Until that glorious day, may their testimonies remind you that your prayers and gifts have changed their lives, now and for eternity. May God fill your heart with joy as you read these stories of his love!

Yours in Christ,

Robert L. Briggs

P.S. Thank you for doing your part to bring the life-changing message of the Bible where it is needed most! We could not do this critical work without you, and I thank God for you every day.

Record

FALL 2021 | VOLUME 167 | NUMBER 2

INSIDE

11 Thank You Letters from China

Believers in China say "thank you" for the new Bibles you sent them

12 Bible Ministry by the Numbers

Snapshots of how God's Word is changing lives, thanks to you

23 Quiet Time

Remembering God's faithfulness on the 20-year anniversary of 9/11

24 Finally!

Meet five language groups that just received their very first Bible

30 In Memoriam

Remembering our loved ones who have gone on before us

16

You are a Hero to Military Children!



6

God and the Gangs of Central America

COVER PHOTO: Gettyimages.com; OPENING PHOTO: Tapon Sarker, Bangladesh Bible Society



GOD AND THE GANGS

YOU SENT BIBLES INTO CENTRAL AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS PRISONS.

WHAT DID GOD DO WITH YOUR GIFT?

YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

By Elisabeth Trefsgar

You've never attended a church service quite like this one.

Under a blazing sun, hundreds of men flood into a courtyard rimmed with coils of barbed wire. White prison uniforms clash with dark tattoos covering their arms, necks, and faces—visible oaths of allegiance to Central America's rival gangs. Now sworn enemies stand side-by-side, without cell bars or guards between them.

And then they begin to sing songs of praise to Jesus.

A Bible revival is sweeping through the prisons of Central America. What was the spark of this spiritual fire? Bibles provided by faithful partners like you.

Fueled by your prayers and generous support, courageous missionaries in Central America are proclaiming the good news of the gospel in the region's most dangerous prisons. And just like it changed the apostle Paul on the road to Damascus, God's life-changing Word is transforming even the most hardened criminals into passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

** Indicates name changed to protect our friends in this dangerous region.*

Photos used with permission from our Bible Society partners in this region.

GANG WARFARE HAS TRAPPED CENTRAL AMERICA IN A CYCLE OF DEATH

From a human perspective, the gang-ridden prisons of Central America are the last place on earth you'd expect to find a Bible study, let alone a growing church movement.

For years, the region has been devastated by Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18 (18th Street)—two of the most violent gangs in the world. Central American youth find themselves trapped between extreme poverty and gang recruiters. Many boys join a gang at 10 or 11 years old, looking for better opportunities. Instead, their life expectancy drops to just five years.

The odds of survival aren't any better in prison. Cells are packed with sweaty bodies. In some places, 75 men share a single latrine. Gang tattoos help you identify your friends, but even armed guards can't always protect you from the enemies who want you dead.

“THERE'S A SPIRITUAL BATTLE HAPPENING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE WALLS.”

But thanks to you, the Bible is infiltrating the gangs' cycle of death with words of life.

THE GRACE OF GOD IS FOR EVERYONE—EVEN GANG MEMBERS

Tomas* is a Christian who travels to different prisons with one of our partner Bible Societies, bringing Bibles you supplied to prisoners no one else will visit.

When he stands outside the prison gate, Tomas says that his spirit often feels heavy. “It's not because I'm scared,” he says. “It's because I know there's a spiritual battle happening on the other side of those walls.”

Inside, Tomas can tell a lot about the prisoners he meets by their tattoos. Horns on their foreheads signal deals made with the devil. Teardrops at the corners of their eyes count the people they've killed.

“It can be hard, because you know the harm they have done to society,” Tomas admits. “You see the news, and you see mothers crying for their sons and daughters who have been murdered by these gang members.”

So, why come?

Tomas puts it simply: “The grace of God is for everyone.”

For a while, Tomas remembers, it didn't feel like his Bible outreach in the prisons was making much of a difference in the beliefs and behaviors of the former gang members.

But he—and other Christians like him—kept coming. They built trust with the prison authorities, visited the prisoners, and preached the gospel to anyone who would listen.



God's Spirit is on the move! Your earnest prayers and generous support are sending Bibles into the most dangerous prisons on the planet. Now hundreds of former gang members are committed Christ-followers, exchanging their guns and knives for Bibles. Thank you for helping spark this incredible spiritual revival in the unlikelyst of places. (The identity of our missionary partner in this dangerous region has been obscured for security reasons.)

Then something began to change.

Prisoners began surrendering their lives to Christ. They renounced their gang membership. They organized worship services. In prisons where Bibles were scarce, they divided the books into sections so that everyone could read a few words from the Lord.

The Bible had become a precious treasure to these unlikely converts—and they were desperate for more of God's Word.

GOD'S WORD IS RAISING PRISONERS FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Santiago* is a prisoner who, thanks to you, recently received a study Bible of his very own.

Before he met Jesus, Santiago's life was full of death. “I felt like Lazarus,” he says. “But Jesus Christ said: ‘Get up, Lazarus, and come out of that tomb!’ I am a living testimony to all who cannot believe that the gospel of God changes [us].”

Attending a prison church service is perhaps the best place to witness the death-to-life transformation Santiago describes. One American Bible Society staff member recently attended one of these services. The experience is something she'll never forget.

“Fifteen hundred of these men were singing at the top of their lungs, praising the Lord who had saved them,” she told us. “Arms raised, tears streaming down tattooed, joy-filled faces. It felt like I had been transported to heaven, literally.”



“It felt like I had been transported to heaven, literally!” That’s how one American Bible Society staff member described what it was like to worship Jesus alongside a massive crowd of tearful, tattooed gang members in Central America. Thank you for helping turn a place of darkness, fear, and death into a Spirit-filled church service.

THANK YOU FOR PLANTING THE SEEDS OF SALVATION!

These men—men like Santiago—will always look the part of a gang member. But now their tattoos tell the story of a past life forgiven and healed by Jesus. “The tattoos—that’s the outside of the person, but the inside has been transformed by God,” Tomas says. “That’s the seed that every Bible brings.”

Like the early church in the book of Acts, former gang members who follow Christ face a path marked by hardship and persecution. Your gift of God’s Word encourages them to stay strong in the faith and to share the gospel with fellow prisoners. And the brave missionaries like Tomas, who risk their lives to deliver the Bibles

you provided, want to say “thank you” for your partnership in the gospel.

“The donors who believed in the power of God’s Word—you are the heroes,” he says with a smile. “You are the people God used to bear the fruit we are seeing today. Without you, we would not see it.”

Witness as prisoners in Central America receive their own copies of God’s Word in this stirring video:
ABS.Bible/PrisonDistribution

Thank You Letters from China

You’ve got mail—but the return address might surprise you ...

By Elisabeth Trefsgar



Letters of thanks written to generous partners like you have been pouring in from rural China, where your prayers and support provided aging believers with the large-print Bibles they desperately needed. Thanks to you, these Christians can now find daily encouragement in the Scriptures.

While urban churches in China are filled with young people, those in rural areas are mainly attended by middle-aged and elderly believers like “Joy.”

Joy’s life changed forever when she became a Christian 28 years ago. But when her vision began to fail, it was like she was losing God’s Word. *I really need a Bible with big words to guide me through each day of my life*, she thought. But in a region of China where most people struggle to make ends meet as farmers, how could she afford a new Bible?

That’s when you stepped in.

Joy and other believers from her area now have their own large-print Bibles, which were provided free of charge thanks to your support. These

Christians are overjoyed to read again the words that transformed their lives—and they want you to know just how much your gift means to them.

“I was touched when I received the Bible,” writes one believer. “God’s Word has helped me in my faith and life. It is a treasure in my heart ... Thank you!”

“The Bible changed my life’s direction,” says another Bible recipient. “God’s Word is the strength of my heart. Thank you ... May the Lord bless you and be with you!”

While you can’t hang these letters on your fridge, we hope you feel the love and gratitude etched into each handwritten word of thanks. Thank you for ensuring that Chinese believers of all ages have the treasure of God’s Word!

You can send more Bibles to aging believers in China! Visit **Give.Bible/China**

Bible Ministry: By the Numbers



How is God's Word changing lives? Let us count the ways ...

95,000

Grateful Americans

This is the number of suffering Americans who received New Testaments and disaster relief Scripture Portions during a four-month emergency COVID-19 response effort. Thank you for sharing the good news of Jesus with so many hurting people when they needed it most!



5,200

Hearts Healed

This is the number of suffering people who participated in a virtual Bible-based Trauma Healing group during the COVID-19 pandemic. This Bible ministry works best through in-person small groups, and your prayers and support enabled people around the world to gather online to encounter God's healing.

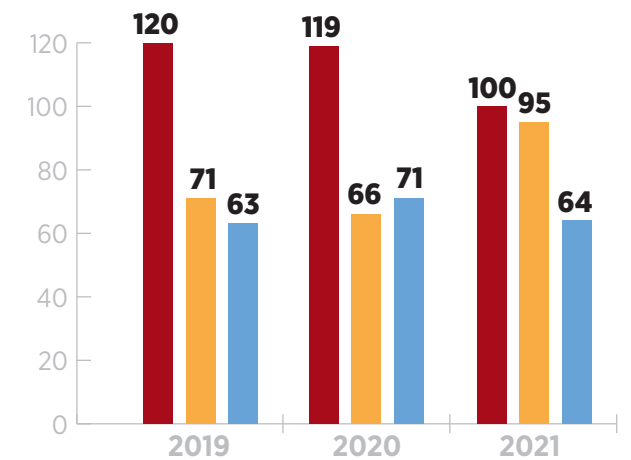
181,000,000

Truth Seekers

This is the number of American adults who opened a Bible in the past year, according to our 2021 State of the Bible USA survey. This number is up significantly (7 percent) from last year's survey, when 169 million adults used the Bible at least occasionally. This shows how the tumultuous events in America this past year drove many people to God's Word for guidance and comfort. A smaller subset of these Americans (64 million) seeks God in Scripture on a *consistent* basis, allowing it to transform their choices and relationships.

This year's survey also revealed that a whopping 95 million Americans, while not yet regularly engaging with Scripture, are open and willing to test drive the Bible for themselves. Last year, only 66 million adults were in this "Movable Middle" category. We praise God for this spirit of openness as people search for eternal answers to life's most difficult questions.

The State of Scripture Engagement in America



■ Bible Disengaged
 ■ Movable Middle
 ■ Scripture Engaged

Numbers are in the millions

You can read this year's full State of the Bible report at ABS.Bible/SOTB



2,000

Liberty Lovers

This is the number of early visitors to American Bible Society's Faith and Liberty Discovery Center in historic Philadelphia during a soft launch season this spring. Thanks to your prayers and support, the FLDC is now a world-class experience championing the Bible's transformative role in American history and its importance for our future.

PHOTO CREDITS: The Salvation Army; Getty Images.com; Douglas Nottage; American Bible Society



75

Years of Faithfulness

This is the number of years since the founding of United Bible Societies—the network of Bible Societies that uses your support to send God’s Word to the farthest reaches of the globe. In May 1946, less than a year after the end of World War II, representatives from Bible Societies in 13 countries gathered in England.

Convinced more than ever of the “need of the world for the Word of God,” the delegates set in motion the formation of this global Bible fellowship, “so that at this time of need, the fullest effort may be made in co-operation with other Bible Societies to meet the need and seize the opportunity to supply to the stricken world the Word of Life and Strength.”

Today, United Bible Societies is comprised of 150 Bible Societies working in more than 240 countries and territories to make the life-changing message of the Bible available to everyone on the planet. You are a critical member of this global partnership!

349

Recovering Inmates

This is the number of prison inmates who participated in a Baylor University research study measuring the effectiveness of American Bible Society’s Bible-based Trauma Healing ministry. The groundbreaking study showed that engaging with the Bible in a small group setting dramatically reduced prisoners’ PTSD, improved their emotional health, and increased their understanding of God’s purpose for their lives.

“This research project empirically demonstrated what was already being observed clearly—the Word of God transforms hurting lives!” says President of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Jon Evans, who helped launch this important study.

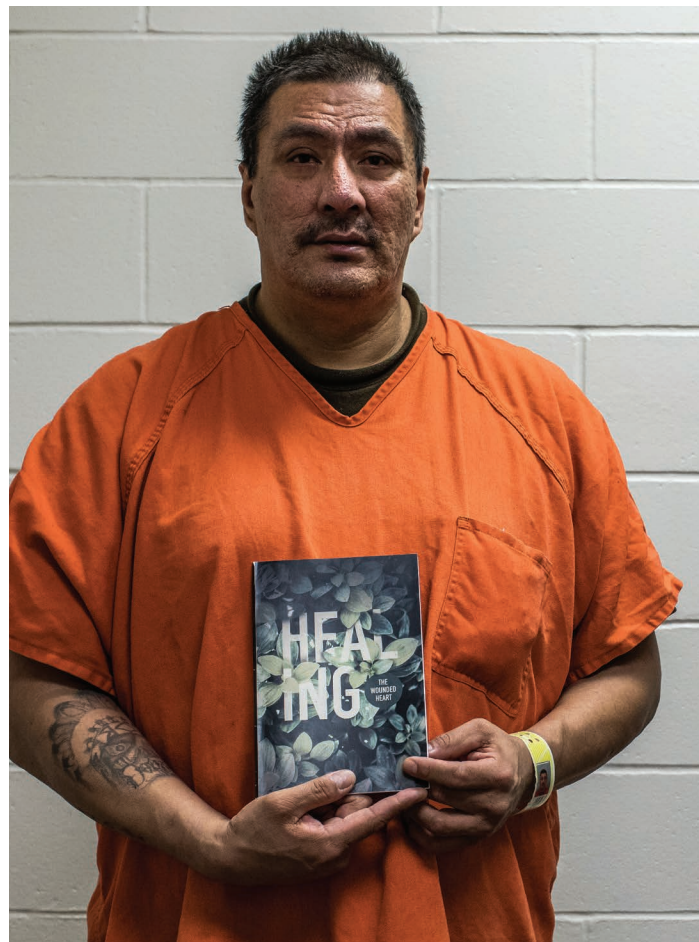


PHOTO CREDITS: United Bible Societies; Douglas Notlage; American Bible Society; Andreas Rhoades; United Bible Societies; Clare Kendall



417

Devotions and Articles Written for African Women

This is the number of culturally relevant devotions and Bible study articles created for readers of the new *African Women Devotional Bible*. With the support of partners like you, 26 African Bible Societies came together to create this beautiful study Bible for the women of Africa, who face many unique challenges and hardships as they work to pass the torch of Christian faith to future generations.

The *African Women Devotional Bible* helps women deepen their relationship with God and discover that they are fearfully and wonderfully made in his image. Every page is crafted to help African women experience power, liberation, and growth in Jesus Christ. This Bible is poised to answer questions, deepen Scripture engagement, and spark spiritual transformation across Africa for generations to come.

You can provide African women with this Bible! Visit Give.Bible/AWDB

2,500,000

Bibles for China

This is the average number of Bibles per year printed and distributed in China by Amity Printing Company, the only authorized printer of Bibles in China, since the first Bible came off its press in 1987. With a population of 1.4 billion in China, there is still a *great* need to meet! Thank you for continuing to send Bibles into this massive mission field.

You can send Chinese Bibles to the millions still waiting! Visit Give.Bible/China





You are my Hero!

Military kids face battles most Americans don't see. But thanks to you, Hero Squad is delivering reminders of God's love right to their front doors.

By Jack Newman

You've probably experienced the warm rush of a neatly wrapped package arriving in the mail—just for you.

Maybe your parents shipped you a box of your favorite cookies during your first semester of college. Perhaps you still remember a large, mysterious gift box emblazoned with the words: Do not open until Christmas! Or maybe it was simply a recent Amazon package containing that book you've been dying to read.

But have you ever received a package that made you literally jump up and down for joy?

Jump for joy is exactly what James and Amy Davis, two military kids in an Air Force family, did when they received a very special package in the mail earlier this year.

The package was from you.

"It was just an ordinary homeschool day when our doorbell rang," recalls their mom, Sara, whose husband serves in Special Operations for the U.S. Air Force. "My kids ran to the door and said, 'There's a big heavy box here!'"

But the real fun started when James and Amy noticed the names on the box.

"Mom," they shouted, "it has our name on it!"

Your support makes military kids jump for joy.

If you can picture the astonished grins on their faces, then you are starting to experience the magic of Hero Squad—a brand new program from American Bible Society's Armed Services



Military families, including military kids, make unspeakable sacrifices to protect the life and liberty we hold dear. Hero Squad is a new care package program from American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry that sends God's love—and your deep gratitude—to brave military heroes of all ages. It's the perfect gift from a grateful nation!

Ministry. Hero Squad uses your generous monthly support to send gifts communicating God's love and our nation's gratitude to 4,200 military children and 3,800 military parents. (And those numbers are growing quickly!)

"They were so excited to open the box," Sara remembers. "They started cheering!"

As with any present, it's what's inside the box that really counts.

The support of Hero Squad partners provides military children with quarterly care packages filled the brim with surprises. The very first box always includes a Bible for each child, equipping them with their most critical resource as they navigate the difficult terrain of military life.

Hero Squad care boxes also include devotionals

targeted for boys and girls at each child's reading level that speak to the unique challenges faced by military children every day, along with fun activities designed to draw families closer together. The boxes even contain branded Hero Squad clothing, coffee mugs with freshly roasted coffee, and other gifts to bless military parents as well as their children.

"The kids loved everything," Sara reports, adding that she and her husband also benefited from the Hero Squad care package. "The fresh coffee for mom and dad was probably the first thing we used up," she laughs.

But for the Davis family, the most impactful gifts in their Hero Squad box were the military-themed Scripture engagement resources that helped James and Amy discover God's love and strength in the pages of their new Bibles. Sara

says she has been blown away by the military-specific content woven into each Bible resource in their care package.

"The *Following Jesus* Bible, along with the Hero Squad devotionals and journals, are a great way to get our kids thinking about God," Sara says. "My daughter is an introvert, so talking through these devotionals has given me a new way to bond with her."

According to Sara, these Bible resources, along with the feeling that each package was specially designed for her family, puts Hero Squad in a league of its own.

"There are other outreach and service programs for military families, but this one was really special," Sara says. "Hero Squad has so much more substance than other programs. It hit close to home—figuratively and literally! Someone clearly put the energy into tailoring it specifically for my kids—including their age and gender."

Military life is unpredictable and lonely.

As a faithful supporter of American Bible Society's ministry to the U.S. Armed Forces, you know just how desperately our brave military families need personalized, Bible-based care like this.

"The highs of military life are really high. God has used the military to take us to some wild, exciting places," Sara says. "But the lows are really low. Over time, it

What's in the Squad box?

- ★ **Bibles**
Created for kids, teens, and parents
- ★ **Devotionals**
For boys and girls at each life stage
- ★ **Journals**
To pray and reflect on the military journey
- ★ **Activities**
For the whole family to enjoy together
- ★ **Clothes**
To proudly display Squad membership
- ★ **Gifts**
Like coffee to keep mom and dad energized
- ★ **Seasonal Treats**
To bless families every quarter of the year



PHOTO CREDITS: Gettyimages.com or used with permission from participating Hero Squad families.

“Watching my kids suffer and struggle with change is 100 million times harder than anything else.”

has become harder and harder to stay resilient and energized.”

The intense loneliness and unpredictability of military life were on full display during the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, Sara says that this past year of lockdown was the first time her closest friends and family could begin to relate to what her military life feels like all the time.

“COVID was the first time most civilians really had to grapple with being completely isolated and out of control,” Sara explains. “That’s how life is for us in the military! We have to live each day to the fullest, but we’re ready at all times for a last-second deployment.”

On top of the normal stresses of military life, the Davis family had to relocate for a new assignment at the height of the health crisis in 2020, moving all the way from Maryland to the Nevada desert. And it wasn’t easy making new friends in a town where the casinos stayed open but the churches and schools were shuttered.

“I do not recommend moving cross-country in a pandemic. It’s a bumpy ride!” Sara says. “We were so isolated and lonely. Neighbors saw our license plate and steered clear of us. They assumed we carried out-of-state germs.”

The Davis family claims Joshua 1:9 as their family motto: “Be strong and courageous ... for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” But clinging to the promise of this Scripture passage proved challenging when the reality of their new life set in.

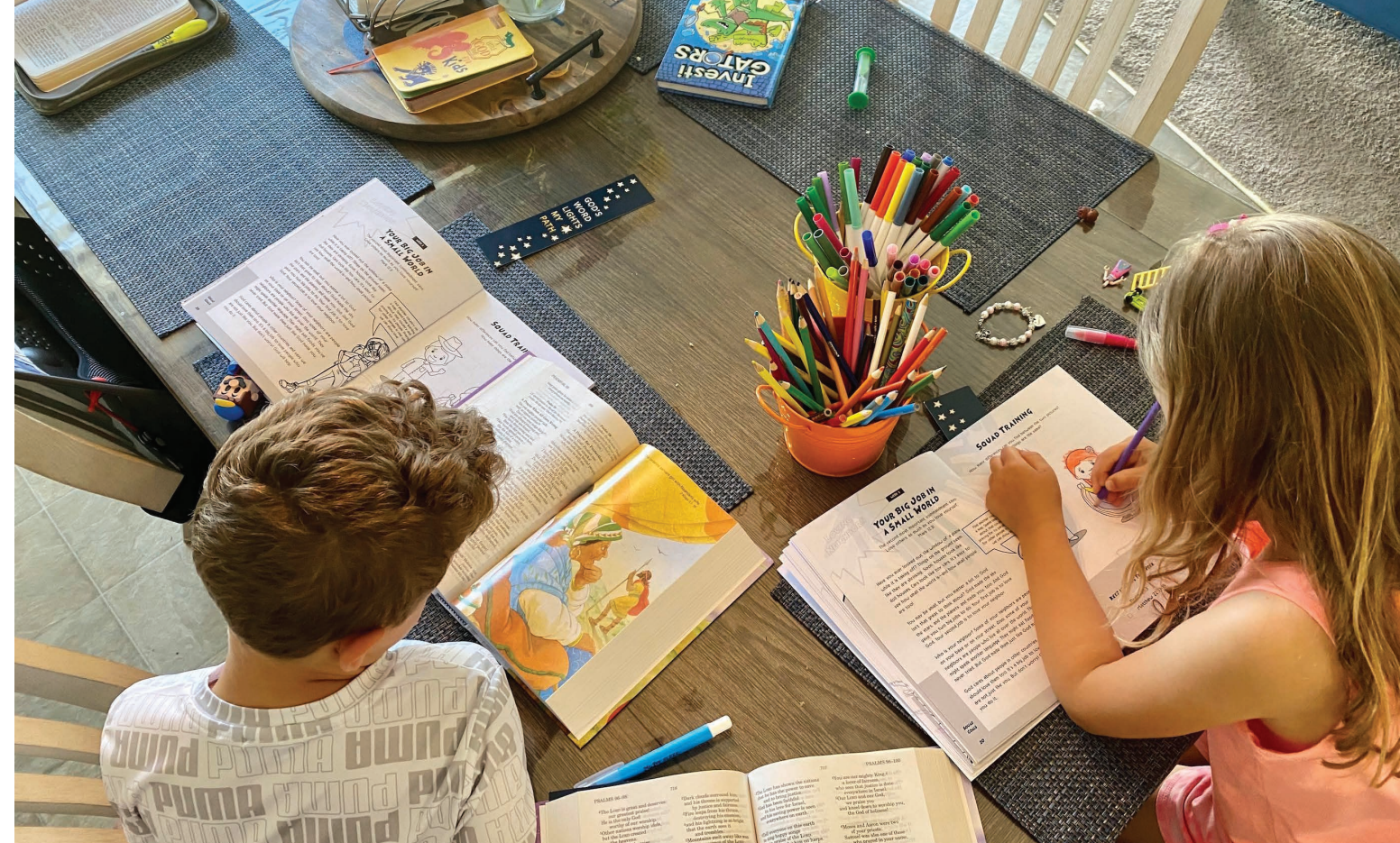
The move was especially devastating for Sara’s 11-year-old son, James, who is on pace to attend seven different schools by the time he is in seventh grade. For the first time in his life, James started to show signs of anxiety. He expressed deep sadness to his parents about the life and friends he had to leave behind in Maryland.

For Sara and the 1.2 million military spouses like her, these heart-wrenching conversations with their kids are often the hardest part of military life.

“In a strange way, I’m always prepared for someone to show up at our door in uniform and tell me that my husband is hurt or has died,” Sara says. “But watching my kids suffer and struggle with change? That’s 100 million times harder than anything else.”

The Bible brings the love of Jesus to military families.

But Sara knows that even in the darkest and loneliest valleys of military life, God’s Word contains the precious words of healing, courage, and love that she, her husband, and her children desperately need. Your special Hero Squad



The support of Hero Squad partners provides military children with quarterly care packages filled the brim with surprises, such as the devotionals and coloring pages seen here. The very first Hero Squad box always includes a Bible for each child, equipping them with their most critical resource as they navigate the difficult terrain of military life.

Scripture delivery arrived just in time for her struggling kids.

“Regardless of your age, the Bible can gently nudge you out of your fears, anxieties, and skepticism, so that your personal walk with Jesus can develop,” Sara says. “He is calling my son and daughter to trust him through his Word.”

Thanks to you, a dark, lonely year was made a whole lot brighter through the arrival of God’s Word in their Hero Squad care package.

“Nobody joins the military to be thanked or for perks and free things. But after such an isolating year, it made my heart so happy to be able to show my kids their Hero Squad box and tell them, ‘People put time and energy into creating this box and sending it to you.’ The Hero Squad program lets my kids know that people

appreciate them and the ways they serve our country and make sacrifices, too,” Sara says.

Your message of thanks was not lost on James and Amy. In the midst of a difficult year, they want you to know: “You made us feel really special!”

You are a hero to our heroes!

You (yes, you!) are the faithful heroes who support our nation’s heroes. You hold them up in prayer and fortify their faith in the Word of God as they so selflessly lay down their lives for our freedom. And, through Hero Squad, you provide their families with the Bible resources they need to follow God with courage and faith—reminding them, as Joshua 1:9 promises, that God is indeed, “with you wherever you go.”

Sara and the growing number of Hero Squad military families send you their deepest thanks for encouraging them on their journey through the hope and strength of the Scriptures.

“It is so humbling to think that somebody like you would give so sacrificially to encourage my family,” Sara says. “Thank you! It’s very meaningful.”

Sara does, however, have one more favor to ask you:

“If you would take a minute to pray for strength, stamina, peace, and courage for military kids everywhere—as a mom, that would mean the world to me.”

Names in this story were changed to protect this military family serving in dangerous parts of the world.

You Can Bless More Military Families!

Sara’s story is just the beginning. There are literally thousands of military families getting blessed by the Hero Squad program—and thousands more yet to reach.

“Thank you so much for all you do to help our children feel important and learn about Jesus,” says one Air Force wife.

“My four kids were so excited to open their Hero Squad box and pull out all of their gifts. My daughter reached for her Bible and said that she was excited to read a chapter every day!” says an Army National Guard wife.



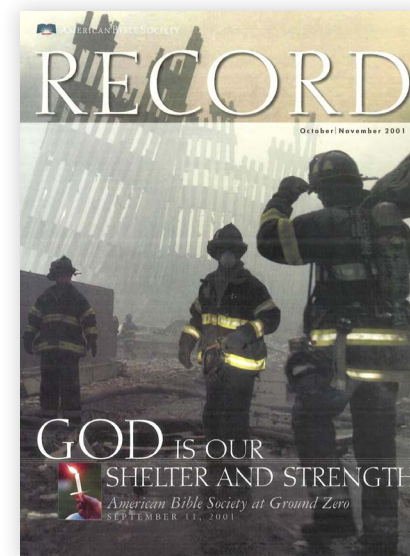
“We are so looking forward to this! We found Hero Squad at the perfect time, as my kids have been really struggling with Daddy being deployed. Thank you for all you do!” says one grateful Navy wife.

There are even more military children who need to meet the God of the Bible and grow in his love throughout the year, but the only way that can happen is through monthly giving.



Won't you help the children of America's heroes experience God's hope and peace during their darkest hours? Sign up to become a monthly Hero Squad supporter today!

Give.Bible/HeroSquad | 1-866-895-4448



Quiet Time

Remembering 9/11

Twenty years later, God is still our shelter and our strength

By John Greco, Managing Director of Ministry Impact Operations

I will never forget how normal that morning felt. On my way to get a cup of coffee, I noticed my colleagues gathering around a television in the lobby. Curiosity turned to disbelief as the events of September 11, 2001, unfolded before my eyes.

I will also never forget the way our staff at American Bible Society came together, unified and focused on serving a city and a nation desperate for hope. Within 48 hours, we had repurposed a special Scripture resource written for people experiencing tragedy: *God Is Our Shelter and Strength*. Through God’s provision, we distributed over 3.4 million copies to a grieving nation in the aftermath of 9/11. Printed here are three promises of God’s Word found in that Scripture resource.

As we remember the great pain and devastation endured by our nation 20 years ago, let us turn once again to the only firm foundation for our souls in this life and the next: the Bible. May God’s Word guide, comfort, and heal our nation today just as it did then. He is still our shelter and strength!

God understands your fear, anger, and sorrow.

Wake up! Do something, Lord! Why are you sleeping? Don’t desert us forever. Why do you keep looking away? Don’t forget our sufferings and all of our troubles.

Psalms 44:23–24 CEV

God is your shelter and your strength.

You are my fortress, my place of safety; you are my God, and I trust you. *Psalms 91:2b CEV*

Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Nothing can separate us from God’s love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God’s love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Romans 8:38b–39 CEV



Finally!

You provided first Bibles and big smiles to people around the world.

BY JACK NEWMAN

PHOTO COURTESY OF: Bible Society of Tanzania

W

hen was the last time you saw a stranger smile at you?

Coming out of a year of COVID-19 lockdowns and masks, seeing your neighbor's beaming face may still be a rare and precious experience for you.

Today, however, your wait to see a cheerful smile is over! There are millions of people from around the world who are eager to line up, look you in the eyes, and flash you a huge grin.

“Thank you!” they would say. “Because of you, I received my very first Bible this year.”

Although you and I are blessed to tug open the ribbon bookmark in our Bibles every morning and spend quality time with God in his Word, over 2 billion people are still waiting for the opportunity to hear God speak to them in a language and format they understand.

You are tackling this spiritual drought head-on through your generous support of American Bible Society.

In fact, despite the logistical setbacks of COVID-19, American Bible Society and our partner Bible Societies around the globe completed Scripture translations in 66 languages used by 707 million people last year. **That's 10 percent of the entire world population!**

Allow us to introduce you to just a few of the people groups who are singing and dancing because you gave them the greatest gift in the world—the Word of God. Because of you, they now know that God loves them, and they're smiling from ear to ear.

Uganda

“Does God ever speak Kupsapiiny?”

That’s the heartbreaking question Rev. Kiptoo Masaba used to ask himself whenever he traveled beyond the territory of his Sebei people in Uganda. “I was amazed at how other people read their Bible and preached in their own language,” he says.

But thanks to your prayers and support, Kupsapiiny speakers in Uganda have now received the New Testament and Psalms in the language of their heart. Now Rev. Masaba and the Sebei people can declare with confidence:

“Today, for the first time, I can say yes, God speaks our language because we have received his word in our own language. Thank you!”

▶ **WATCH:** Kupsapiiny speakers welcome the New Testament and Psalms into their homes and hearts.

ABS.Bible/UgandaLaunch



PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Bible Society of Uganda; Mongolian Union Bible Society



Mongolia

Your prayers and support empowered the Mongolian Union Bible Society to produce a complete Mongolian Braille Bible in record time.

Saikhantsetseg (green plaid shirt), a 19-year-old girl who lost her sight as a child, is extremely grateful for the new Braille Bible you provided her. Saikhantsetseg read from the new Bible at the dedication ceremony and explained that although she enjoys listening to the audio Bible, being able to read the Bible for herself makes it “more interesting and alive.”

Thank you for bringing God’s Word to life for Mongolia’s Blind population!



Nigeria

Paul Ajisafe, Chairman of the Okun New Testament dedication, says that praising God in his heart language of Okun gives him a “special feeling.” It was not long ago that Bible translators were humiliated and even killed in Nigeria. Paul urges his fellow Okun Christians to open and use the Okun New Testament for worship and meditation.

Then, just two weeks after the launch of the Okun New Testament, more than 200 Igala Christians gathered to celebrate their new Igala Common Language Bible.

“I am optimistic that the Igala Common Language Bible will bring total salvation to Igala Land,” said Bishop Dr. John Ibenu at the dedication ceremony. “I therefore appeal to you all to not keep this Bible on your shelves but to read it and be guided by its counsel.”

There are more than 500 languages spoken in Nigeria. Of those, 26 have the full Bible and 60 have the New Testament. Thank you for bringing salvation and life transformation to the most populous African nation!



Vanuatu

“It is a miracle!”

His voice thick with emotion and his eyes filled with tears, Father Francis Gilu from the island nation of Vanuatu rejoiced when he received the New Testament in his heart language of Hano, which is spoken in the West Pacific.

Now in his eighties, Father Francis is one of the original Bible translators who contributed to the project, which spanned more than four decades and overcame countless setbacks. Cyclone Pam in 2015 destroyed the homes of the Hano translators, who were forced to live in tents for months.

Thank you for bringing the message of Jesus into the Hano language!

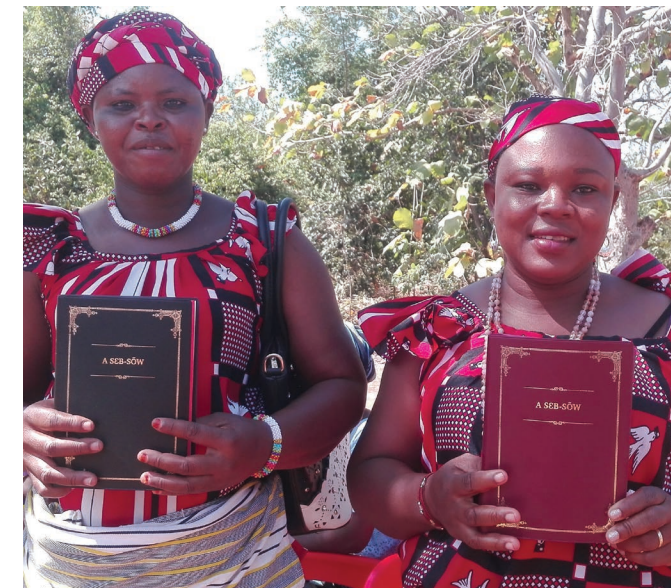
▶ WATCH: Hano speakers perform a traditional dance celebrating the publication of the New Testament: **ABS.Bible/Hano**

Burkina Faso

“It is a blessing for us to have the Bible in our mother tongue,” says Céline (holding red Bible), who speaks the Dagara language in the West African nation of Burkina Faso.

“This translation will enable us to better understand the Word and, even more importantly, put it into practice,” she says. “I am happy to have my own Bible in my own language. I will be able to read it, understand it and even share it with my children and others around me.”

Thank you for making it possible for Dagara speakers to be hearers and doers of the Word! 📖



You can provide the Bible to even more waiting people groups! Visit **Give.Bible**



IN MEMORIAM

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!”

MATTHEW 5:4 CEV

in memory of my husband
Gerald P. Bodey, Sr.
given by Nancy L. Bodey

in memory of my wife
Adele Bueschel
given by Howard Bueschel

in memory of my wife and daughter
**June and Kim
Handwerker**
given by Bob Handwerker

in memory of
Norbert Holst
given by Bethany Lutheran Church

in memory of my sister
Emma Larsen
given by Ida S. Johnson

in memory of my husband
and daughter
**John D. McDonald
and Sherylyn M. Jeffries**
given by Gloria J. McDonald

in memory of my wife
Joan Lord-Roberts
given by Ted Roberts

in memory of my wife
June Scott
given by Donald Scott

Joseph Sobaje
given by Mary J. and David Rogne

in memory of
John O. Spivey
given by Ralph Block

in memory of my husband
O'Dell J. Todd
given by Brenda L. Todd

in memory of
Erwin Tullar
given by First Baptist Church

in memory of
Sidney Williams
given by Brian and Elaine Williams

in memory of my husband
Andy Wyer
given by Lynda Wyer

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**

ABSDonor@AmericanBible.org

American Bible Society | 101 North Independence Mall East FL8 | Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155



CELEBRATING JACK TURNER (1930-2021)

In 1965, a pastor approached Jack Turner (pictured here with his wife, Sammie) and made him an offer that would change his life, and the lives of countless others, for eternity: Would Jack give up the pack of cigarettes in his pocket for a New Testament from American Bible Society? “Put her there!” Jack exclaimed, as he walked away from a lifelong addiction and devoted his life to sharing Jesus with everyone he met. Jack loved teaching Christian business principles and ministering in county jails. He loved the term “HappyLujah” and always aspired to be the Lord’s Happiest Man. If possible, we know that Heaven is an even happier place now that dear Jack has entered glory!

Watch a video of Jack sharing his testimony at [ABS.Bible/JackTurner](https://www.ABS.Bible/JackTurner)

Like Mother, Like Daughter

Sarah has a plan to share the Bible with future generations through her estate—and you can too!



Sarah is excited to share God's Word for decades to come through the Sarah F. Ward Bible Fund.

When Sarah Ward came home from school every day, she found her mother doing the same thing: taking care of her big brother Ralph, Jr., who lived his entire life with undiagnosed Cerebral Palsy.

“He never walked or talked,” Sarah says. “My mother devoted her life to caring for him.” While Sarah’s mother fed and bathed her precious son, she also tended to little Sarah’s spiritual growth by teaching her Bible stories and helping her practice Bible memory “sword drills.”

“Through all those years, my mother’s strength and support were from the Bible,” Sarah says. “When she got all her jobs done—around midnight or one o’clock—even then she’d spend time reading God’s Word and praying.”

With her life of service grounded on the rock of God’s Word, it’s no surprise that Sarah’s mother did all she could to share the Scriptures with others.

“My mother was a supporter of American Bible Society. She gave money throughout the years, and that’s how I got started giving,” Sarah says. Today Sarah carries on her mother’s legacy as a prayer warrior and generous financial partner.

“We both believed in the importance of everyone having a Bible,” Sarah says. “The strongest way for people to

follow Jesus is to read the Bible for themselves. Now it’s our opportunity to get it to everyone.”

By completing a simple application with American Bible Society’s Gift Planning team, Sarah now has a plan to share the Bible through her estate for generations to come—a gift that will keep on giving!

“As a fiscally responsible, conservative person, I’ve always believed in the importance of endowments,” Sarah explains. “And I want my legacy to reflect my Christian beliefs!”

Just as Sarah’s mother set a godly example for her daughter, Sarah encourages others to consider how they can maximize their gifts to share God’s Word with those who need it.

“Stewardship is a very important part of our Christian life,” Sarah says. “What better organization can we give to than one that is going to get God’s Word into people’s hands?”

**Follow Sarah’s example and leave a legacy that reflects your Christian beliefs!
Contact us today:**

 Call **1-800-549-3328**

 Email **GiftPlanner@AmericanBible.org**

 Visit **[ABSGift.org](https://www.ABSGift.org)**

PHOTO COURTESY OF: Sarah Ward; BACK COVER PHOTO: Getty/Images.com

 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

101 North Independence Mall East FL8
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155

AmericanBible.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

American Bible
Society



***SUPPORT
OUR TROOPS.
SHARE
GOD'S WORD.***



Faith and Freedom. They're two of God's most precious gifts to us. But far too many Americans forget the brave men and women who have left behind everything to protect the life and liberty we hold dear.

You can let our courageous troops know that they are loved by God and supported by a grateful nation.

When you invest in the men and women who serve God and our country, your partnership will provide Bibles and customized Bible resources for Service members, Veterans, and their families free of charge.

**Will you help place a Bible in their hands and hearts?
Show your support and make the gift of God's Word today!
Give.Bible/Military | 1-866-895-4448**

