

A photograph of a woman with a joyful expression, wearing a blue cardigan over a yellow and blue patterned top. She is holding a black Bible with both hands. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

*G O D ' S W O R D*  
*B R I N G I N G H O P E*  
*F O R A L L*

2016 STEWARDSHIP REPORT ONLINE



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

# GOD IS FAITHFUL—YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER



Dear Friend,

At the start of the New Year, I draw encouragement from the words of Hebrews 12:1 (GNT), “Let us run with determination the race that lies before us.”

Incredibly, these inspiring words about the future follow a chapter that’s all about the past. Hebrews 11, affectionately called the “Hall of Faith,” recounts God’s faithfulness throughout every chapter of Israel’s story.

This 2016 Stewardship Report follows that biblical pattern. Because when we take time to celebrate what God has done in the past, we find fresh hope to face the future.

In these pages, you’ll come face-to-face with the people you reached this year with the hope of God’s Word: a spiritually hungry teenager in China, a U.S. Marine haunted by dark memories, a Lamkang Bible translator ministering in North India, and many others.

You’ll also read about American Bible Society’s Bicentennial celebration, where, like the book of Hebrews, God’s past faithfulness inspired a bold vision for our future ministry.

I pray these year-end highlights stretch your imagination to see all that God will do in the days ahead. One of the most exciting ministry initiatives on the horizon is our vision for the Faith & Liberty Discovery Center at our Philadelphia

headquarters. In this report, you’ll learn how this world-class experience in America’s most historic neighborhood will spark Scripture engagement across our nation.

None of these endeavors—past, present or future—would be possible without your generous partnership. On behalf of the entire American Bible Society family, thank you for faithfully laboring with us. Linking arms for the future, “let us run with determination the race that lies before us.”

Serving Together,

Roy L. Peterson  
*President & CEO, American Bible Society*



## CONTENTS

- 4 CELEBRATING GOD’S FAITHFULNESS
- 6 WORKING WITH PROPHETS AND POETS
- 8 STRENGTH IN THE SILENCE
- 10 A NEW TRANSLATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

HEALING WOUNDS THROUGH GOD’S WORD 14

GOD’S WORD BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS 16



20 WORDS OF HOPE AND LIFE

24 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

26 BOARD OF TRUSTEES





# CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY TURNS 200

The crowd at American Bible Society's Bicentennial celebration wasn't unlike the vision described in Revelation 7:9. Believers from more than 100 nations, from Myanmar to Slovenia, Brazil to Togo, gathered for one purpose: to give thanks for God's faithfulness.

And there was much to celebrate.

Since American Bible Society's founding in 1816, God has raised up generation after generation of Christians to share his Word both in the U.S. and around the world. In the last 200 years, American Bible Society's financial partners have made it possible to distribute nearly 60 million Bibles and Bible resources. From providing Scripture to members of the U.S. military starting in 1817 to Bible ministry in China that began in 1833, God has blessed the faith and sacrifice of those who have supported American Bible Society through

prayer, talents and treasures over the course of two centuries.

Yet, it wasn't just the past that the crowd had gathered to celebrate. It was also the promise of lives being transformed in the next century by the love and hope of Jesus found in Scripture. Through three core areas of ministry—Bible translation around the globe, Bible engagement in the U.S., and Scripture-based trauma healing throughout the world—God is leading American Bible Society to work toward a future where “the earth will be as full of the knowledge of the Lord's glory as the seas are full of water” (Habakkuk 2:14).

“We must seize this moment to help the American church reconnect with its biblical heritage, while boldly charting a future of Bible influence and hope,” explained American Bible Society President and CEO Roy Peterson.

And that future is taking shape now. American Bible Society's financial partners are supporting new technology

*“But the earth will be as full of the knowledge of the LORD's glory as the seas are full of water.” HABAKKUK 2:14 (GNT)*

and collaboration among Bible translation organizations to accelerate the speed and quality of the translations. This work will directly affect the 165 million people who are still waiting for a verse of Scripture to be translated into their language and make it possible to see 100 percent of languages opened for people to engage God's Word by 2026.

“We are within that reach, perhaps in our generation, that we could see [the Bible in] every language. But it requires all of our hearts and hands,” says Director General of United Bible Societies Mike Perreau, who is still waiting for Scripture to be translated into his own mother tongue.

In the U.S., there's a different challenge: Most people have a Bible in their language on their shelf but they need help to read it regularly and to consider its truth. That's why American Bible Society's financial partners are supporting a 10-year initiative to see 100 million people in the U.S. engage with God's Word.

One of the launching pads for this work is establishing the Faith & Liberty Discovery Center at American Bible Society's headquarters in Philadelphia. The space, which is across from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, will tell about the Bible's role in shaping American history, while challenging participants to experience their own personal transformation through Scripture.

Yet for many people both in the U.S. and around the

globe, true transformation through Scripture can only happen once they experience healing from past emotional wounds and spiritual pain.

Through Bible-based trauma healing, God's Word can guide participants through experiences such as war, domestic violence and natural disasters that affect their relational, emotional and spiritual lives. American Bible Society's trauma healing ministry started in 2010 in the war-torn Great Lakes region of Africa, but it's since spread through ministry partners around the world.

All of this work—Bible engagement, Bible-based trauma healing, and Bible translation—will depend on prayer, giving, and significant acts of faith.

But we can go forward placing our eyes on Jesus, whose faithfulness has marked the work of American Bible Society for 200 years and counting.

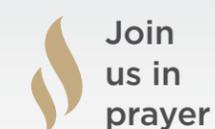
## 2016 IN REVIEW

 7.9M Americans encountered God's Word through ministry in the U.S.

 1M hurting people experienced healing through Bible-based trauma healing

 7.1M people around the world engaged with the Bible in the last year thanks to American Bible Society's financial partners

 4.9M people are one step closer to receiving Scripture in their heart language through Bible translation efforts



Join us in prayer

1 Praise God for faithfully guiding and providing for American Bible Society for 200 years.

2 Ask God to raise up the next generation of financial and prayer partners to champion Bible ministry in the U.S. and around the world.

3 Pray for ministry partners working with us to increase Scripture engagement in America, bring Bible-based trauma healing to those with wounded hearts, and translate God's Word.

# WORKING WITH PROPHETS AND POETS

A TRANSLATOR LABORS TO BRING  
THE OLD TESTAMENT TO HER PEOPLE

**F**or Bong Shot, the hall of heroes in Hebrews 11 isn't just a list of ancient men and women who represent God's work through his people. They're coworkers who encourage her as she spends her days translating the Old Testament into Lamkang.

"When I am working, I am imagining that I am working with David, or along with Abraham," she said. "So I can live in the Bible . . . I just continually work with them."

With these colleagues at her side, Bong Shot has the endurance to face the challenge of translating the first draft of the Old Testament into Lamkang.

And it's a worthy challenge.

The Lamkang, who live in Northeast India, number about 10,000 people. Although they have a translation of the New Testament that they cherish, it's not enough, Bong Shot explains. Reading the Bible in Lamkang is such a powerful experience that her people need the entire Bible in their language.

"When we read the Bible [in Lamkang], it touches our heart more than some other language," Bong Shot says thoughtfully. "So the people love to read the Bible in their own language."

The only other published book in Lamkang is a hymn book. So a Lamkang Bible translation would

reinforce that God is present with the Lamkang in their own culture and language.

But Bong Shot's work isn't without struggles.

The Lamkang reside in what the Indian government calls one of the 250 most "backward" districts in the country. In fact, the government considers them a "scheduled caste"; untouchables. And the Lamkang face constant pressure to conform to the majority culture.

"We are living in different communities, and the state government imposes on us to speak the state language, not giving priority to the communities," said Bong Shot.

In addition to the stigma of her people group, Bong Shot's unstable working environment in her community poses a challenge. Constant power interruptions in her district make the daily translation work sporadic. When a power outage happens, she has to take her laptop and go somewhere that has a generator or solar power to charge her device and continue where she left off.

The pressures on her people and the logistical challenges of doing the translation aren't her only concerns, however. A single mother of two adopted children, she balances translation work and caring for her family.

"The difficulty is to feed them and do the translation," she said. "I have to divide the days and nights."

But she continues forward, eyes fixed firmly on the prize: A complete Old Testament in Lamkang by 2018.

*"They want to know more about God through the whole Bible."*

BONG SHOT, LAMKANG  
OLD TESTAMENT TRANSLATOR

And despite the challenges along the way, Bong Shot continues with hope because of the Lamkang's hunger to read more of God's Word.

"They want to know more about God through the whole Bible," said Bong Shot. "That means the Old Testament. So we need to do the translation well and finish it up."

## DIG DEEPER

 163 Bible translation projects supported by American Bible Society's financial partners in the last year

 16 Bible translations supported by American Bible Society's financial partners started in the last year

 1,700+ language groups are still waiting for access to God's Word in their heart languages



**1** Pray for the Lamkang people as they wait to read the Old Testament in their heart language. Ask God to fill them with hope and encouragement.

**2** Pray for the swift completion of the first draft of the Lamkang Old Testament. Pray for wisdom and strength for Bong Shot as she completes checks and revisions on the draft.

**3** Pray for provision for Bong Shot's children and for continual encouragement as she carries out the translation work in a challenging environment.

# STRENGTH IN THE SILENCE

HOW GOD'S HEALING WORD  
HELPED A U.S. MARINE OVERCOME  
GUILT AND HEARTBREAK

**M**ichael Thomas\*, a nine-year veteran of the U.S. Marines, picked up a piece of paper and began to draw. He sketched a house with a porch and a front door. Then he drew himself as a stick figure on the porch.

This activity was part of the opening phase of a Bible-based trauma healing session, a ministry that equips suffering people to overcome their pain by engaging with God's Word and learning basic mental health principles. Formally launched by American Bible Society's financial partners in 2010, the ministry guides participants from around the world through *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*, a book that facilitates mental and emotional healing through biblical principles and mental health best practices.

And Thomas needed healing.

Once he finished his drawing, Thomas turned to the participants in his session—all members of the U.S. Armed Forces—and shared the story behind his artwork.

Several years earlier, while serving in Iraq, a small company was detached from Thomas's unit to embark on an independent mission. One of the Marines in that company was killed in combat. When Thomas received news of his death, he went with a fellow Marine, a Navy Corpsman, and the unit chaplain to visit the man's wife and young son.

When the man's wife answered Thomas's knock on the door, tears began to stream down her cheeks. She needed no explanation. Thomas offered to speak with her son, but she declined and left him on the porch with his fellow servicemen. Thomas soon heard the son screaming through the door.

As he walked away from the scene that day, Thomas felt guilty. He thought about his own son. He wondered

why his unit chose him to share the message. And he wondered why this visit—out of everything he had experienced in the Marines—seemed so hard to process.

In the years that followed, this experience haunted Thomas. The sound of the young boy screaming echoed through his mind almost daily. But it wasn't until he attended the Bible-based trauma healing session that he understood the depth of his emotional wound.

While presenting his drawing during the opening stages of the session, Thomas realized that he had never shared his experience with anyone. By communicating his pain, he began to experience freedom from the trauma that tormented him.

As the session continued, Thomas engaged with more than 300 Scripture references in *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*. He learned to grieve. He learned to overcome his guilt. He learned to experience God's love. And, beside his fellow Service members, he learned to release his suffering to Christ.

At the conclusion of the program, Thomas grabbed his hand-drawn picture and approached a small cross located at the front of the room that housed the session. He dropped his drawing into a small fire beside the cross, watching his paper wither in the flames and rise into the

air as smoke and ashes. He had symbolically given his pain to God, asking for an escape from the memory—the sorrow, the guilt, the never-ending scream—that had tormented him for years.

When he left the session that day, the young boy's scream no longer rang in Thomas's ears. Instead, he experienced something new: peace.

*\*Name has been changed*

## DIG DEEPER

 200K people experienced hope through Bible-based trauma healing ministry in the U.S.

 372 people were equipped to lead Bible-based trauma healing groups

 11–20% of Iraq War veterans suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

 8M people have PTSD during a given year in the United States, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs



**1** Pray for those in the United States who are hurting from the unseen wounds of trauma. Pray for healing of their hearts and minds so they can experience God's love in Scripture.

**2** Pray for new and expanded financial partnerships so that we can continue to provide Bible-based trauma healing workshops to military Service members across the country.

**3** Praise God for people who are healing from their trauma. Pray for them to now minister to others in their neighborhoods and churches.

# A NEW TRANSLATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

BIBLE TRANSLATION  
OPENS SCRIPTURE IN RURAL CHINA

**T**eenagers are known for asking hard questions. But among minority populations in China, few young seekers are able to search for answers in Scriptures translated into their heart language.

Ngwa\* was one of the blessed ones.

A member of the West Lisu people of China, Ngwa was 16 when he met a local preacher who told Ngwa—in his own language—that there was a God. Ngwa had struggled with the meaning of life, but after hearing the preacher he decided that he wanted to follow Christ. He began attending church and learning about Scripture through the local preacher.

It's an opportunity that many of Ngwa's peers don't have. In China, there are 115 million people who speak one of 297 minority languages as their heart

language. Many of these minority speakers don't speak Mandarin as a second language, which is often the only Bible translation locally available. That leaves millions of Christians without Scripture in a language they can understand.

"[In] China, because of its size, the minority would be a majority in many other countries," explains Jock Foo, who oversees minority translation and leadership training with United Bible Societies (UBS) China Partnership. "The need is huge."

This absence of the Bible in local languages has a serious effect on believers. Without God's Word in their heart language, it's hard for Christians to grow spiritually, to share the good news of Jesus with others, and to see God speaking in their cultural context and daily life.

*"When you receive the Bible in your heart language, it's like God is talking to you personally."*

JOCK FOO, UBS CHINA PARTNERSHIP

They must rely on a pastor or other majority language speaker to bring the messages of the Bible to them, says Jock.

But that is beginning to change.

UBS China Partnership, with backing from American Bible Society's financial partners, is supporting the Chinese church on five Bible translation projects in minority languages. This support provides translators with training in translation best practices. As a result, translators are able to produce more accurate translations faster.

There are potentially eight more translation projects on the horizon. Prayers are needed for these projects to begin.

"When you receive the Bible in your heart language, it's like God [is] talking to you personally," she explains.

Ngwa himself is a testament to the transformation that's possible when a believer can access God's Word in the language spoken by his family and community.

Although Ngwa spoke Mandarin, he became a Christian through a pastor who spoke West Lisu.

Now Ngwa attends Bible School so that he can share the gospel among the 200,000 West Lisu speakers in his community. And with the launch of the updated West Lisu Bible in May 2016, Ngwa can study and preach from God's Word in his own language.

This work of bringing God's Word to believers in a language they can understand sends a strong message to Christians who speak minority languages, says Jock. It communicates, "You're not left out. God has not forgotten you."

And for every child, teenager or adult with questions about Jesus, that message is a life-changing answer.

*\*Name has been changed*

## DIG DEEPER



7M people in China can now engage with God's Word through five new minority Bible translations



23 Bible translation projects in Asia were possible because of American Bible Society's financial partners in the last year



55 minority ethnic groups are officially recognized in China



**1** Pray for the distribution of the West Lisu Bible. Pray for continued favor with both the local and national governments.

**2** Pray for Ngwa to grow in faith and knowledge as he studies in Bible school. Pray for direction as he discerns a call to preach.

**3** Pray that those who have received the 10,000 West Lisu Bibles already printed would experience God's love and presence through his Word.



*I praise you, O LORD;  
teach me your ways.*

*PSALM 119:12 (GNT)*

# HEALING WOUNDS THROUGH GOD'S WORD

HOW ONE WOMAN SHARES GOD'S WORD WITH  
THE BROKEN AND THE AFFLICTED  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

When Leslie Doll remembers her recent visit with young Yazidi women in northern Iraq, the image of the women's faces comes back to her mind. They were blank. As the women sat together and shared their stories—of ISIS abducting and abusing them, and of the months of pain that ensued—there seemed to be no sign of hope, no optimism for the future in their expressions.

The memory stayed with Leslie long after she left. She knew these women needed healing that was deeper than any physical wound. And she knew there was a way to help.

More than a year earlier, Leslie and her husband Bob contributed to the launch of a refugee relief fund to help displaced people in the Middle East. They began by partnering with ministry leaders to hand-deliver food,

blankets and shelter. But when the refugee crisis in the Middle East heightened, the couple saw another urgent need arise: to provide spiritual and emotional healing through God's Word.

"Physical relief can be delivered in the back of a pickup truck," Leslie says, "but trauma healing cannot. I'm convinced that the only true healing possible will come from the gospel."

Leslie responded by meeting with American Bible Society to learn more about Bible-based trauma healing. Formally launched in 2010, the ministry equips suffering people to find healing through God's Word and mental health best practices. Leslie wanted to explore the possibility of introducing this ministry in the Middle East.

"Having been in the field, and seeing great need for trauma healing, there is nobody else out there doing this," Leslie says.

*"Physical relief can be delivered in the back of a pickup truck. But trauma healing cannot. I'm convinced that the only true healing possible will come from the gospel."*

LESLIE DOLL

Following her meeting, Leslie decided to support American Bible Society's Bible-based trauma healing with her prayers, time, energy, and financial resources.

She traveled to Malta—a southern European island the size of Atlanta—for a training course that equipped her to share the healing power of Scripture with refugees in the Middle East. The training focused on *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*, the core text of American Bible Society's trauma healing curriculum.

"I was able to understand how effective and needed this trauma healing tool is," she says of the training. "By marrying clinical expertise with the hope of forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation found in Scripture, we have a tool that makes an eternal impact."

Leslie witnessed the impact of the training earlier this year when she visited the community of young women in Iraq. During her experience, she watched the gospel take root.

"It's a real joy to be in the trenches—to not only send a check, but to see a need and see the possibility of real healing," she says.

*"Give praise to the LORD;  
he has heard my cry  
for help." PSALM 28:6 (GNT)*

Today, facilitators lead healing groups in 68 countries around the world—including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. And more than one million people have encountered God's Word through the Bible-based trauma healing curriculum.

As Leslie's partnership with American Bible Society carries on, she looks forward to continued growth of the Bible-based trauma healing ministry in the Middle East.

"My experiences on the ground confirmed the urgency of the gospel and that apart from Christ, we can do nothing," she says. "I'm excited to see how he is going to work in the shattered lives of the refugees."

## DIG DEEPER

 482 people in Iraq benefited from Bible-based trauma healing resources supported by American Bible Society's financial partners

 37 Bible-based trauma healing activities were conducted in Iraq in the last year

 27 Bible based-trauma healing groups met in Iraq in the last year

 Join us in prayer

1 Pray for the Yazidi women in northern Iraq who are recovering from trauma perpetrated by ISIS. Pray for God's Word to bring peace and healing in their lives.

2 Pray for financial partners to come alongside Bible-based trauma healing to help hurting people experience healing through God's Word.

3 Pray for families to find God's healing and comfort in Scripture during this turbulent period in the Middle East.

# GOD'S WORD BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

EQUIPPING LEADERS TO PURSUE  
RACIAL RECONCILIATION  
FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

**T**heron Huff listened as the Rev. Donna Jones, a Philadelphia-based pastor and public policy advocate, shared about racial segregation in her community. “God speaks strong in our weaknesses,” Jones explained, referencing 2 Corinthians 12:9. “So we need to pray for an end to all the forces that separate us.”

For Huff, the conversation had major practical implications. As a ministry leader in Philadelphia who works with high school students, he’s witnessed the effects of racial tension in his ministry and community. Jones’s perspective, which she shared during “Under My Skin,” an event designed to foster courageous conversations that explore how Scripture helps each of us pursue racial reconciliation, helped Huff apply Scripture-based insights to an issue he encounters daily.

Hosted by American Bible Society and Biblical Theological Seminary, Under My Skin brought 160 attendees together from varying backgrounds, professions and walks of life. The event sought to unite these people—and their differing perspectives—around

a common framework of Scripture. By presenting biblical truths about reconciliation, American Bible Society equipped attendees to approach a tension-filled topic from a place of humility and grace.

“We wanted people to wrestle with God’s call for us to be reconcilers in our communities, as well as the influence of the Bible in reframing conversations about race relations,” says Arthur Satterwhite, who directs national movements at American Bible Society and coordinated Under My Skin.

The event is just one way American Bible Society is using Scripture to serve cities facing a variety of challenges throughout the country. From grassroots Bible reading groups in Charlotte, to Bible-based trauma healing and Scripture engagement in Phoenix, God’s Word is forging inroads of love, hope and peace from the gospel into the American church.

At the event in Philadelphia, Huff and his fellow attendees heard from pastors, professors, ministry leaders, activists and authors. They discussed uncomfortable topics rarely talked about in public



“We wanted people to wrestle with **God’s call for us to be reconcilers in our communities**, as well as the influence of the Bible in reframing conversations about race relations.”

ARTHUR SATTERWHITE, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL MOVEMENTS  
AT AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

settings and explored Scripture passages pertaining to reconciliation and unity.

“I sat at a table [during Under My Skin] with men and women I don’t know well, and got to hear them respond to and think about race relations,” Huff says. “It gave me a desire to think about what these people can teach me about this topic.”

“People came away from Under My Skin saying they gained not just a greater awareness of the problem, but greater agency to go and be a part of the solution,” Satterwhite says.

For Huff, this approach offered insight and ideas for his future ministry plans. “I left [Under My Skin] thinking, ‘how can I model this environment?’ Because it’s not what we naturally do in our communities,” he says.

Later this year, Huff will use insights from the event to inform a culture and race support group he plans to launch in Philadelphia.

“We all have thoughts about [race relations], and many of us feel like we can’t share our thoughts,” he says. “I want people to come and be honest about what they’re thinking.”

Huff’s vision shows the power of Scripture to transform difficult conversations and situations. And

it is a tangible response to Rev. Jones’s call to overcome the forces that divide people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Now, as Huff pursues reconciliation in his ministry and community, he will hear the words of the Apostle Paul ringing in his ears: “I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

And that echo of Scripture is building beyond Philadelphia. It’s ringing from north to south, east to west. God’s Word bringing forgiveness, the love of Christ and hope to God’s people, his church.

**DIG DEEPER**

 **7.2M** Americans connected with Scripture through culturally relevant ministry

 **700K** people interacted with God’s Word through partnerships in major cities

 **5** major cities now have active Scripture engagement partnerships



**Join us in prayer**

**1** Pray for God’s Word to bring peace, unity and forgiveness to cities throughout the country.

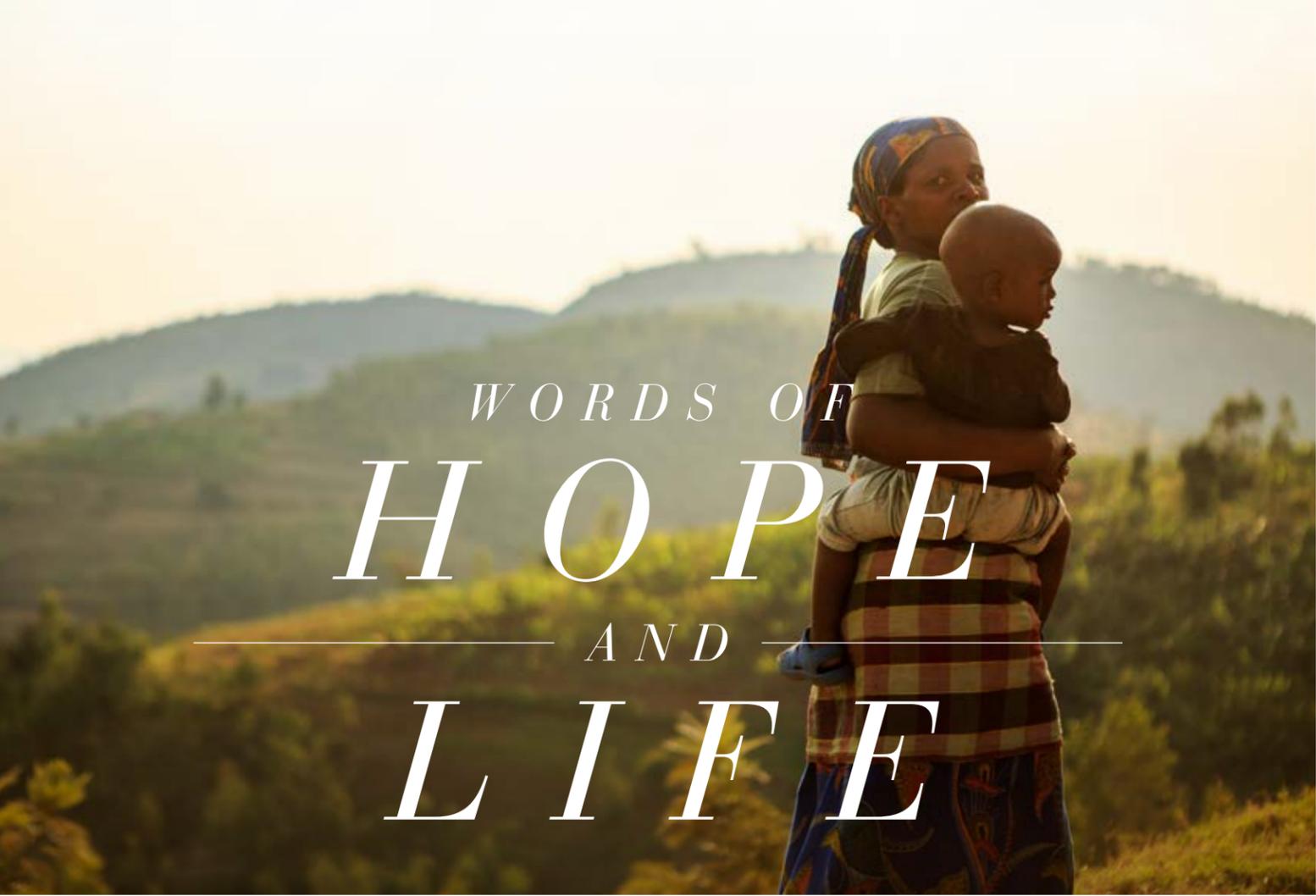
**2** Pray that God will fill believers with a love of his Word so that they will be able to become more like Jesus.

**3** Pray for financial partners to rise up in cities across the nation to champion God’s Word.



*How wonderful it is,  
how pleasant, for God’s people  
to **live together in harmony!***

PSALM 133:1 (GNT)



# WORDS OF HOPE AND LIFE

IN UGANDA, A RADIO RECORDING HELPED ONE WOMAN  
ENCOUNTER THE HEALING POWER OF GOD'S WORD

One day, while traveling on the highway in Uganda with her aunt, Gift noticed smoke in the distance. Soon she spotted soldiers from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)—a rebel militia group based in the Great Lakes Region of Africa—around a burning vehicle that they had seized and torched.

As Gift watched, the soldiers opened gunfire on a vehicle behind her. Gift huddled in the car with her aunt, who attempted to shield Gift from the chaos that rang outside. Eventually, the two eluded the soldiers and fled to safety. But despite their escape, memories of the experience tormented Gift.

Then as an adult, one day, years after her encounter with the LRA, she stumbled upon an opportunity to find relief from her pain.

While looking for part-time work, Gift accepted a job with a studio that needed voice talent for a radio recording of *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*, the core curriculum of American Bible Society's Bible-based trauma healing ministry. Active in 68 countries around the world, Bible-based trauma healing equips suffering people to find healing by pairing Scripture with mental health best practices.

In the Great Lakes Region of Africa, radio broadcasts serve as a powerful method of distributing

“Lord, heal me and I will be completely well; **rescue me and I will be perfectly safe.** You are the one I praise!”

JEREMIAH 17:14 (GNT)

this curriculum to millions of listeners who tune in to local radio shows each day for news and entertainment.

As Gift completed recordings of the curriculum script that would provide suffering people in Uganda with access to *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*, she began to experience healing of her own.

She encountered themes of goodness and love by reading the creation story. She learned about grieving by engaging with the book of Job. She uncovered what it means to forgive by reading the story of Stephen in Acts.

This experience empowered Gift to share stories from her past—not just about her confrontation with the LRA, but other painful experiences from her childhood, too. As a young girl, Gift's parents divorced and abandoned her. When she moved in with her uncle, he vowed to marry her off for free, a sign of human worthlessness in her culture.

But all of this agonizing pain began to fade when Gift recorded *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*. Through telling her story, she began to experience healing from

her heart wounds and feel God's loving presence. What began as a part-time job turned into a path to hope and forgiveness.

And the best part? Through the airwaves of Uganda, Gift could share this hope with others. One Scripture verse at a time.

## DIG DEEPER

 800K people around the globe experienced healing through Bible-based trauma healing

 43 countries with active Bible-based trauma healing programs

 1B people around the world have been affected by extreme violence such as war, ethnic conflict, torture and terrorism

 Join us in prayer

**1** Pray that as God uses Scripture to heal Gift and others' emotional and spiritual wounds, he would use them to transform their communities.

**2** Praise God for the financial gifts that made it possible to offer this program in the Great Lakes Region of Africa and beyond. Pray for financial partners to link arms to bring restoration to more countries.

**3** Pray for wisdom and understanding for local facilitators and church leaders as they bring Bible-based trauma healing to their congregations.



*Be glad that we belong to him; **let all who worship him rejoice!** Go to the LORD for help, and worship him continually.”*

*1 CHRONICLES 16:10-11 (GNT)*

# 200 YEARS OF GOD'S GENEROSITY



Since our founding 200 years ago, God has been generous to American Bible Society, spreading his Word throughout the world for two centuries and counting. He continued to do marvelous things this year through the generosity of our financial partners—

strengthening American cities, healing wounded hearts and transforming language groups through the power of his Word.

This legacy of generosity gives us hope for the future. Incredibly, God is using our humble efforts to fulfill his promise in Habakkuk 2:14 (GNT), “But the earth will be as full of the knowledge of the LORD’s glory as the seas are full of water.”

As you sacrificially contribute to this mission through planned, recurring and one-time gifts, American Bible Society is committed to doing our part. We pledge to steward your funds with integrity and transparency, working to see all people experience the life-changing message of the Bible.

This year, we are happy to report that 100 percent of current gifts to American Bible Society directly support Bible ministry; operating costs are underwritten through our strategic reserves. Through multiple generations of financial partners and through careful stewardship, we have maintained our commitment to domestic and international programs, spending \$1.38 for every \$1.00 received from donations and Scripture sales.

**100 percent of every dollar given** went directly to Bible ministry in the past year.

*“Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good; his love is eternal!”* PSALM 107:1 (GNT)

I am so thankful for the resources God has opened up to grow this gospel ministry. You see this represented here both in current giving as well as the generosity of past financial partners, released here to move ministry further to reach even more people with God’s Word.

Thank you for choosing to partner with us in this important work. God is making good on your investment—renewing our world as, one by one, people meet Jesus in the pages of Scripture.

With gratitude,

Robert T. Lipps, Esq., CPA  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

# GENEROSITY REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 (\$ MILLIONS)



American Bible Society complies with ECFA's Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™, which are drawn from Scripture and are fundamental to operating with integrity.

All financial figures cited in this document for FY 2016 are unaudited as of press time. Audited numbers will be available in 2017, and can be viewed at [abs.us/stewardship](http://abs.us/stewardship).

JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016

**Nick Athens**

Chairman of the Board, American Bible Society  
Co-founder and Co-owner, EcoVac Services

**Elizabeth Peale Allen**

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*You that are righteous, be glad and  
rejoice because of what the LORD has  
done. You that obey him, shout for joy!*

PSALM 32:11 (GNT)



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