

WITNESS

2014 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

BEARING WITNESS TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

“The one who plants and the one who waters really do not matter. It is God who matters, because he makes the plant grow.” – 1 CORINTHIANS 3.7 (GNT)

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on my first year at American Bible Society, I am filled with gratefulness to God for all He has done.

In the last year, I have seen God working through prayer and financial partners like you, who have given their gifts and talents in order to share Scripture where it is needed most. I have had the honor of working alongside ministry partners who are passionate about translating the Bible and spurring Bible engagement in the U.S. and around the world. And every day we have seen lives transformed when people meet Jesus in the pages of Scripture.

I am truly blessed to witness this work of God. And that's why we've chosen the theme of “witness” for this report, because we at American Bible Society are so blessed to witness all that God is doing through our financial partners, ministry partners and people whose hearts are changed by encountering God in his Word.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul paints a beautiful picture of how the church grew in Corinth. “Each one of us does the work which the Lord gave him to do,” Paul writes. “I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow.”

Friends, together we are actually experiencing that and participating in the work of God. In the pages of this report, we have the opportunity to witness how God made the seeds, that you planted and watered, grow into beautiful testaments to his faithfulness. Whether it is in a tornado-stricken town in the U.S. or tiny villages throughout South America, God is working through his Word.

Today, I invite you to take a moment to read these stories and serve as a witness to God's faithfulness across boundaries of geography, language, government and culture. Then, together, let us praise God for this truly great work he has done.

Thank you for following God's call to plant the seeds of Scripture in hearts around the globe, as we witness the work of God in the world.

Serving together,



Roy Peterson
President & CEO

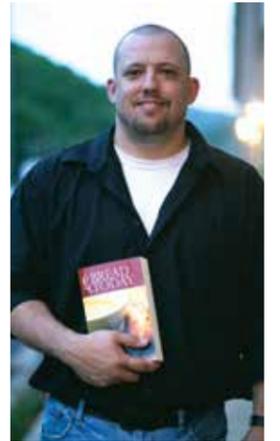


Cover photo by: Will Swanson, Bible Society in South Sudan.

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GOD'S WORD IN THE U.S.

100 million people in the United States
actively engaging Scripture

“They listened to the message with great eagerness,
and every day they studied the Scriptures . . .”

—ACTS 17:11 (GNT)



HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, BUT NOT DESTROYED

Terri Whitworth

| WITNESSING SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT TAKE ROOT

For Terri Whitworth, reading God's Word every day is not just a rote habit. It is a lifeline. "We have a sunroom in our house and in the sunroom we had a chair and ottoman," Terri explained. "I sat in there every morning, drank my coffee and read my Bible."

Terri had started the practice of daily Bible reading after her pastor had preached a sermon based on a curriculum from American Bible Society. The message, called "Where's Your Chair?" encouraged finding a special place to read the Bible every day.

"When I was done I always put my Bible on my ottoman, and that's where it always sat."

But on November 17, 2013, 24 tornadoes moved through 15 counties in Illinois in the fourth largest outbreak of twisters in the area since 1950. Eight people were killed and hundreds of houses were left in ruins. One of them was Terri's.

"When the tornado came through the house, [the surrounding windows] were the first windows that blew out of the house. It created pressure, wind pressure, throughout the house. Although everything else pretty much blew out the window, the chair and the ottoman was there, and my Bible was still there."

"We're lucky to be alive," says Terri. "Our house was hit



pretty bad, but ours is still standing. Our neighbors along our street – all the houses were gone. We felt that God's hand was on our house. That kept us from anything happening to us. The house rocked back and forth, but it was still standing."

What Terri and her family witnessed was a modern-day miracle.

God's Word is a Refuge

After witnessing this miracle, what is Terri's message to the world today?

"God will get you through anything," Terri says. After

Photos by Terri Whitworth and Benjamin Leaman.

“I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.”

—PHILIPPIANS 4.13 (GNT)

losing almost all of their earthly possessions to the tornado and three loved ones to illness, what remains for the Whitworth family? “The strength of Christ,” she says.

Today, Terri doesn’t have a chair, but she has “a special end of the couch.” She continues to read her Bible there every morning. “I feel that you have to have a special place to go where you feel like you’re connecting with God.” Terri continues,

“He’s giving me hope. He’s giving me strength through his Word and I can feel his presence with me when I’m sitting in my chair. So, I encourage people: find your chair, sit in your chair, read in the same place, because God will know you’re there and he will read to you.”

A Foundation in Scripture

As we work to see 100 million people engage with the Bible in the U.S., a key theme in our work this year was anchored by the question that guided Terri,

“Where’s your chair?”

The phrase, “Where’s your chair?” really points to deeper, bigger questions such as, “Are you regularly engaging with God’s Word? Are you intentional about setting aside a time and place to be in a relationship with him?”

“Where’s Your Chair?” was created to address the fact that a mere 19% of churchgoers engage with Scripture four or more times during the week while 41% don’t engage with the Word at all. We’re looking to help people foster an intimate, growing relationship with the Creator of the universe.

“The chair” is both a metaphor for our spiritual relationship or our intimacy with our Creator, as well as a literal, physical place. Our “chair” is a place of refuge where we can quiet ourselves and spend time knowing and being known by the One who made us.

This year, in partnership with Willow Creek Association, American Bible Society created tools and materials to help people “reset” the way they engage with Scripture in their lives. These materials were made available online as well as in print.

American Bible Society also shared the idea of “finding your chair” for Bible engagement at the Global Leadership Summit in Chicago, reaching nearly 1,000 key church leaders, who then brought it back to their local church communities and into their homes, rockers and wingbacks.

To find “Where’s Your Chair” materials, visit AmericanBible.org/solutions



ARMING THE MILITARY WITH SCRIPTURE



For the past 197 years, American Bible Society’s financial partners have been faithful in providing opportunities for Scripture engagement to our armed forces. We serve a large community of active duty, reserve, National Guard and Coast Guard personnel—as well as veterans and families—with contextualized Bibles and Bible study materials.

American Bible Society works closely with military and veteran chaplains from across the Church in developing and distributing Scripture resources. This is one reason we continue to be the primary source for Scripture resources for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and a significant source for the Department of Defense.

Last year, our financial partners impacted 690,395 service members, veterans and family members. Active duty personnel continue to request—and use—custom Bibles embossed with their unit crest. Large-print Bibles and Scripture engagement tools are in high demand in VA hospitals and ministries.

Recent God sightings:

- The *Military Challenge Bible* has become the “go-to” Bible for chaplains. A new Catholic NABRE edition was reprinted twice just this year to meet the unexpected demand.
- Introduced new or significantly upgraded digital resources including the *Military Bible Challenge App* and websites for veterans (*God Understands*), military families (*E100*) and military teens (*ReZilient Life*).
- Responded to a request for chaplains by releasing compact military Bibles in the English Standard Version.
- Partnered with the National Coalition of Ministries to Men to release a *Men’s Bible* that can also be used in future projects.
- Launched the *Take a Knee* series, two 30-day devotionals to introduce new recruits to Scripture.
- Released audio and large-print editions of our popular *God Understands* booklets, addressing the eight spiritual injuries most commonly experienced by military veterans.



PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- Pray that people across the U.S. would begin to “find their chairs” —discovering hope and new life in Scripture.
- Pray that God would prompt church leaders to ask, “What is the courageous

conversation I need to have with my church about Bible engagement?”

- Pray that service members and veterans will draw strength and endurance from the Bible.



NOW IS THE TIME FOR GOD'S WORD IN THE U.S. CHURCH

| WITNESSING CHANGE

From ancient Rome to modern day New York, cities have been at the heart of change and innovation. Technology, fashion, business and the arts have all thrived in and spread from cities.

Now, it's the Bible's turn.

With support and guidance from our financial and ministry partners, we are embarking on a quest to equip cities throughout our nation to be transformed by God's Word. In the next 10 years, our city partnerships will help us reach our goal of seeing 100 million people in the U.S. actively engaged in the Bible.

We start this by asking one key question: What do churches, communities and individuals need in order to be shaped by God's Word? Through prayer, guidance and the help of our

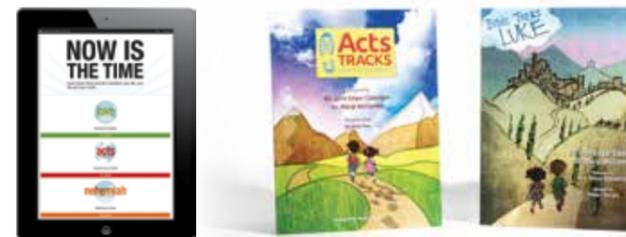
faithful partners, we offer what is needed, where it is needed so that all people can be transformed by the life-changing message of Scripture.

Here are just a few highlights from the work we've seen in the last year.

The Bible for Church Communities

When leaders in New York City began looking for a way to increase Bible engagement in their community, they knew they needed a unique, multidimensional solution. They wanted people to not only read the Bible, but live it. They didn't just want God's Word to enter people's minds. They also wanted it to transform people's hearts.

Enter *Now is the Time*.



The *Now is the Time* curriculum, created by American Bible Society in partnership with Concerts of Prayer and the New York City Leadership Center, takes people through three major books in the Bible—Nehemiah, Acts and Luke—so that they can engage with God's Word and use what they learn to transform their communities, cities and the world.

There are tracks for children, youth and adults online; and the adult material is available in English and Spanish. But most importantly, the curriculum contains a challenge: to live God's Word after reading it. From *Now is the Time: Luke's* focus on "Building the Kingdom," *Now is the Time: Acts's* call to "Transform our World" and *Now is the Time: Nehemiah's* exploration of "Restoring our Cities" individuals are seeing God's Word come alive in themselves and in their cities.

The Bible for Latino Communities

As we follow God's leading to increase Bible engagement in cities throughout the U.S., it's essential to take into account changing interests and demographics. The growing Latino population is a critical part of that.

In the Pew Research Center's 2013 National Survey of Latinos and Religion, they found that "among the youngest cohort of Hispanic adults, those ages 18-29, virtually all of the [religious] change has been away from Catholicism and toward no religious affiliation."

Today, 18 percent of the total Latino population is religiously unaffiliated. How can the Bible reach them? How can we offer ways to engage the life-changing Word of God written in Spanish, the language of their hearts?

 **GOD'S WORD IS CHANGING LIVES**

3,500
downloads of *Now is the Time: Acts* materials that support pastors, church leaders and people engaging with the Bible

2,500
adults and youth subscribed to the *Now is the Time: Acts* online Bible-based devotional

NowIsTheTime.AmericanBible.org



By working with the Latino church to increase Bible-engagement, Latinos in the U.S. are able to benefit from culture-specific programs, materials and new media about the Bible every day. Through our flagship national program *Descubre la Biblia*, or "Uncover the Bible," church leaders can help minister to first and second generation immigrants in the U.S. engage with the language they know best.

This year, momentum from *Descubre la Biblia* continued to encourage pastors and their congregations to a fresh discovery of God's Word and a commitment to daily Scripture engagement.

Photos by Michael Gibeault and Benjamin Leaman.

GOING DIGITAL: WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO REACH MILLENNIALS

| WITNESSING MINDS OPEN TO SCRIPTURE

Historical. Symbolic. Story. Sacred. Testimony. These are the top five words Millennials use to describe the Bible. The new study, *“Millennials and the Bible,”* co-commissioned by American Bible Society and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, dives deeper into the perceptions Millennials have about the Bible and their engagement with the best-selling book of all time. The findings were often surprising, and they must be set against the backdrop of a larger context of culture, church and this new, digital-first generation.

Millennials, or today’s 18- to 30- year olds, are the first digitally native generation: they were born into a world with the Internet, grew up swiping and touching screens, came of age with mobile devices in their hands. How does new technology change and shape culture and, in particular, interpersonal relationships, communications and the church? How do these factors influence the ways in which we communicate (both sending and receiving) God’s Word? These are big questions without easy answers.

Millennials are typically multiple device users with several technology tools in hand such as mobile phones, tablets and computers. They are sometimes referred to as “Generation C” for Connectedness, because they are always connected to one another and to the world at large through their technology tools.

In an online survey of 1,000 participants in the U.S., *“Millennials and the Bible”* found that many non-Christians have a negative view of those who engage with the Bible. When non-Christians see someone reading the Bible in public they make certain assumptions or judgments about the Bible reader, such as:

- They are politically conservative
- They don’t have anything in common with the person
- They are old-fashioned
- They are trying to make a statement or be provocative
- They are naïve and create feelings of discomfort

Photo by: Andrew Hood.



32%

of Millennials report that they never read the Bible

17%

of Millennials read the Bible more than once a week

30%

of Millennials believe the Bible has too little influence on society

Source: 2014 State of the Bible and Millennials and the Bible

But the reality remains that more Millennials are leaving the Bible on bookshelves, with 32 percent never reading the Bible, compared to 26 percent of all U.S. adults.



GOD IS OPENING MINDS

21%

of non-Christian Millennials feel closer to God when they read the Bible (Barna Group Study)

34,498

online Scripture Journey subscriptions in the last fiscal year

“Instead, let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry.” –AMOS 5.24 (GNT)

Millennials continue to drive the shift toward Bible indifference or skepticism.



While an open Bible in a coffee shop may make a Millennial feel uncomfortable and conjure up images of people espousing propaganda from platforms, there still remains hope for an entry point for the Gospel. For all of the negative perceptions of the Bible and Christians, the majority of non-Christian Millennials believe that the Bible teaches forgiveness (70%), patience (62%), generosity (64%) and social justice (41%). But the reality remains that more Millennials are leaving the Bible on bookshelves, with 32% never reading the Bible, compared to 26% of all U.S. adults.

Both the danger and the opportunity is to be true to God’s Word, while holding this life-giving word out to a generation that is increasingly opposed to it. “The good news is that, while more Millennials are turning skeptical toward the Bible, we still see them reaching out to God during times of difficulty and to feel closer to God, whether that’s through social media, an app or a book. For us, this is the time to step up to the plate and show this generation that God’s Word is necessary and relevant. For Christian ministries like American Bible Society, this means there is still an opportunity to encourage more Millennials to engage with the Bible and experience its life-changing message,” says Geof Morin, executive vice president of Ministry Mobilization at American Bible Society.

Photo by Michael Gibault.



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PURSUING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DIGITAL CONTENT

Imagine Millennials riding trains through urban centers. As they ride, they send a couple of texts, check their social media sites, then come to their email inbox. They quickly scan it, coming across an email from *Journeys*, an online, Bible-based devotional platform developed by American Bible Society. The subject line is “Poverty.” This catches their attention, so they click and find a Scripture which anchors a short, thoughtful meditation on God’s Word.

We continue to develop digital content and resources for use in multiple community contexts. These take into consideration the multi-generational face of the American church today, from the “digital first” Millennials (18 to 34 years old) to the Baby Boomers, currently the largest segment of the U.S. population, 80 million in number.

God’s Word calls us to care for those who are hurting, a high expressed value for Millennials. In response, we created online Bible-based devotionals on social justice related topics such as: “Least of These,” “Justice” and “Poverty.” This digital content can be accessed on mobile phones, tablets and laptops. These devotionals help people, and in particular, Millennials, to engage with the Word of God as a part of a larger church-based experience.



PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- Pray for creative, new ways to engage Millennials with the Bible.
- Pray that God would open skeptical minds as Millennials open the Living Word on their mobile phones, tablets and laptops.
- Pray that God would assemble the right creative team to reach the digital first generation through local church engagement, cross-cultural content and more.



A BIBLE REPLACES A PACK OF CIGARETTES

Jack Turner

| WITNESSING HEARTS OPEN

Although he accepted Christ as a young person, Jack Turner had never read a book in the Bible or said a prayer until the age of 35. At that time, he discovered American Bible Society. Jack remembers:

“When I became really inspired by my study of the Scriptures, a friend said, ‘I’d like to give something to replace that pack of cigarettes in your pocket.’ It was a paperback Bible from American Bible Society. I completely wore it out, so a shoe repairman friend put a new leather cover on it. I treasure it to this day.”

For Jack, this marked the beginning of his concern for the biblical literacy of Americans. He realized that “there is a vast lack of understanding of a faith walk in Jesus Christ.” God ignited in him a passion to change this.

Today, Jack is known in his small Ozark community as a Christian businessman who owned the Ben Franklin, the local general store. But he is also an international advocate for God’s Word. At the age of 85, Jack counts about 40 separate Scriptures where God instructs, “Go and tell what (I have) done for you.” His obedience to this call includes travel with American Bible Society to Vietnam and

Photos by: Benjamin Leaman.



Jack Turner shares God’s Word with inmates near his home in Missouri.

Cambodia. Jack also works in his own backyard. For more than 45 years, Jack has worked in local jail ministry distributing American Bible Society Bibles through American Rehab Ministries in Joplin, Mo., to bring the Word of God to those in prison.

But whether it’s in the Ozarks or across the globe, Jack’s mission is simple: to see lives transformed by the Word of God.

“The Holy Spirit has nothing to work with if we don’t have the Bible. I’ve hung onto that myself. It revolutionized my life.” —Jack Turner

PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- Praise God for providing faithful financial partners like Jack Turner to help share God’s Word.
- Pray that people like Jack would continue to enter into prison cells with the compassion and love of God.

GOD’S WORD IS SETTING PEOPLE FREE

- Juvenile prisoners in Sudan, who have lived through violence and war, are discovering new hope in God’s Word.
- In Ukraine, 8,000 juvenile inmates received New Testaments with special inserts.
- American Bible Society has provided Bibles for prison ministries in the U.S., including American Rehab Ministries.

“The Sovereign LORD has filled me with his Spirit.
 He has chosen me and sent me
 To bring good news to the poor,
 To heal the broken-hearted,
 To announce release to captives
 And freedom to those in prison.
 He has sent me to proclaim
 That the time has come
 When the LORD will save his people
 And defeat their enemies.
 He has sent me to comfort all who mourn,
 To give to those who mourn in Zion
 Joy and gladness instead of grief,
 A song of praise instead of sorrow.
 They will be like trees
 That the LORD himself has planted.
 They will all do what is right,
 And God will be praised for what he has done.”

ISAIAH 61.1-3 (GNT)

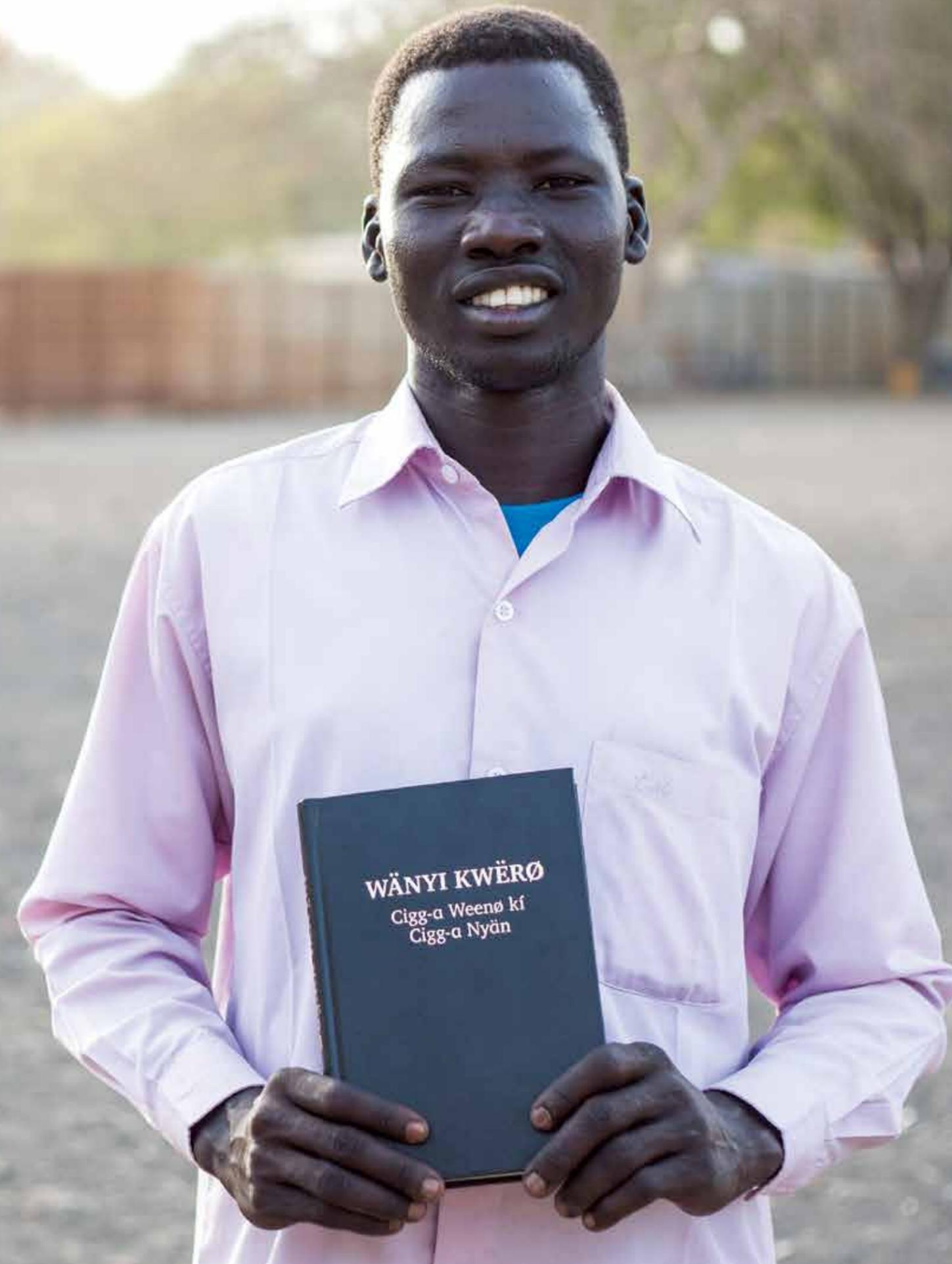


GOD'S WORD AROUND THE WORLD

100% of the world's languages
opened for Scripture engagement

“I will purify each language and make those languages acceptable for praising me. Then, with hearts united, everyone will serve only me, the LORD.”

—ZEPHANIAH 3.9 (CEV)



DO YOU SPEAK JAMIEKAN?

| WITNESSING NEW ACCESS TO GOD'S WORD

Approximately five million people speak Jamiékan, a native Jamaican tongue that is the largest single minority language in the Americas. But right now, Jamiékan speakers are still waiting to read the Psalms in the language that their mothers used to sing lullabies. Although the language is used in music, speech and drama around the world—there is still no Old Testament translation in Jamiékan.

But now, a project that uses crowd sourcing to translate a selection of Psalms will make laments, prayers and praises to God available to Jamiékan speakers on the island of Jamaica and in a diaspora community around the world. In partnership with The Seed Company, this project is charting new ground in accelerating the translation process so that all people will be able to read God's Word in their heart languages.

This Jamiékan translation of Psalms is one more step toward our 10-year goal of translating 100 percent of languages needed to reach all people. Today, millions of people representing thousands of language groups are still waiting to hear God's Word in their heart languages. But through new technology and innovation in the translation projects, the translation in Jamiékan and the 54 other translation projects supported by American Bible Society can continue at an accelerated pace.



Photo by: Maurice Harvey.

The acceleration of Bible translation, in large part, is due to new technologies such as the Digital Bible Library (DBL), an online repository of completed and ongoing Bible translations around the world. As of October 2014, the DBL had acquired 944 texts, from recent translations to digitized versions of older, print translations.

“When translators were using pencil and paper, the process would take 30 years,” explains Nick Garbidakis, the operations coordinator for the DBL and CIO/CTO of American Bible Society. “They faced wars, floods, fires, genocides, you name it. Without Internet access, 10 years of translation work would disappear when a tsunami struck. With today's tools, we can avoid these issues. We have all the texts in a centralized, secure place.”

These new tools will help speakers of all languages—including Jamiékan—know God's Word in their heart language.

“Thirty-five years ago, it took an average of 15 years to complete a New Testament translation. Today, it takes an average of eight years.”

PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- Pray for the translation team providing the translation in Jamiékan.
- Pray for those promoting engagement and helping to change the mindset of the wider community towards Scripture in Jamiékan.
- Pray for groups across the island who will determine the most appropriate translation of specific Psalms.



40-50 Psalms

soon available in Jamiékan in both print and digital formats

105

translation projects supported by American Bible Society with 47 different Bible Societies in FY14

“But how can they call to him for help if they have not believed? And how can they believe if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out? As the scripture says, ‘How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news!’”

—ROMANS 10.14-15 (GNT)

BEAUTY FROM ASHES IN LATIN AMERICA

| WITNESSING RESTORED LIVES

Throughout the world today, women are being abused, exploited and taken for granted. In many cultures, women are viewed as having less value than men simply because of their gender. Often, they are treated as second-class citizens lacking voices, economic power and the opportunity to improve their situations.

Yet, as God's Word enters a culture, it transforms and redeems cultural practices. Sometimes this is a slow, steady transformation. At other times, it is jarring and rapid. No matter how it comes, it is always miraculous.

Today, throughout Latin America, the Word of God is shaping the lives of men, women and children, and bringing about gender equity and the peace of God in the midst of injustice. What follows are stories testifying to what God is doing through his Word throughout Latin America.



BOLIVIA "READ TO LIVE": REMOVING BARRIERS TO THE GOSPEL

In Bolivia, illiteracy, poverty and violence prevent many women from accessing God's Word.

While it is true that indigenous women in Bolivia are recognized as the cornerstone of the family, the Bolivian Bible Society (BBS) reports that the cultural values found in indigenous people groups often lead them to believe that women have no need of an education. As a result, young girls often have very little or no schooling before dropping out to help their mothers in the home. They cannot read God's Word for themselves, and they tend to marry young and live subjected to the decisions made by their husbands. At the same time, a high percentage of Bolivian women are victims of violence.

How is the local church responding?

"Until now, community elders and leaders have not seen the need for women to go to school," reports BBS. "But this



A woman taking part in the *Read to Live* literacy program, run by the Bolivian Bible Society and its partners. The program is teaching thousands of people, mostly indigenous, rural women, to read and write in their own languages—Chipaya, Aymara and Quechua. The program is also running in Chile, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. It tackles domestic violence as well as illiteracy.

mentality is gradually changing." Today, BBS's *Read to Live* program teaches indigenous women to read and write in their own language through Bible-based curriculum. This empowers them to assume a more equal role within the family and society. *Read to Live* also addresses the issue of domestic violence by teaching both men and women biblical values about the family.

"Indigenous women, who are unable to read and write, are one of the Bolivian populations most vulnerable to situations of domestic violence." —Bolivian Bible Society



The *Read to Live* program is helping women in Chile find confidence and new life in God's Word.



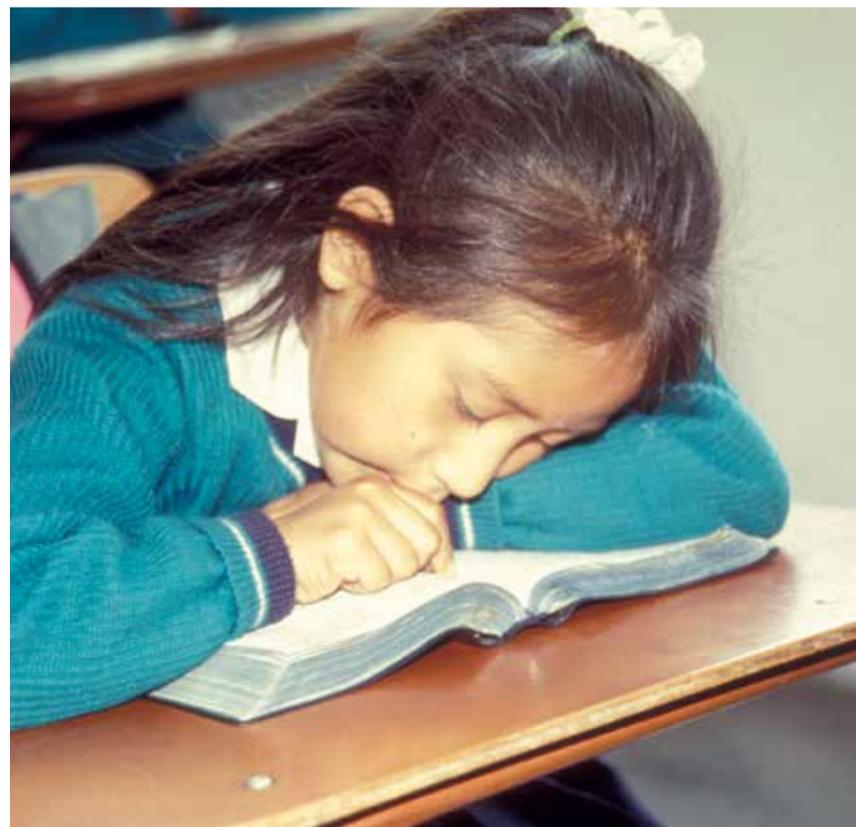
CHILE ESCAPING TRAFFICKING

Uneducated women in Chile often fall prey to drug traffickers who use these women to carry drugs across the border. The Chilean Bible Society reveals, "Most of these women are illiterate and are not aware of what they are doing until they fall into the hands of the local police." In Chile, approximately 480,000 people are illiterate. Half of this illiterate population is comprised of women. Through the *Read to Live* program, women discover hope and healing in God's Word while learning to read.



ECUADOR TRAINING FEMALE LEADERS

Where there is poverty, illiteracy and violence, there are increased rates of violence, abuse and exploitation, with women as the likely victims. But when the Gospel enters culture, things begin to shift. In Ecuador for example, the Bible Society is attacking this three-fold problem (poverty-illiteracy-violence) through an innovative initiative that is generating a movement within the female sector of the church's leadership so that these women can receive training to teach literacy skills (reading and writing) using biblical material. In addition to teaching literacy, the Bible Society is helping churches organize female action groups as well as providing training material for the pastors and church leaders. This project has been so successful that church leaders were recently invited to conduct domestic violence training for government personnel.



A child reading a Spanish Bible in the Verbo Christian School, Ambato, Ecuador.

Throughout the world, cultural practices often do not recognize the worth of women in their midst. Jesus gives women value and voice.



Recipients of the New Testament in Ngobe as part of the Bible Society of Panama's literacy project in Ngobe.



PANAMA TRANSLATING THE WORDS OF LIFE

Four hundred kilometers from Panama City, in a very difficult area to access, situated among the mountains and rivers, lives a people group called the Ngobe Buglé. Among this population of approximately 200,000 people, more than two-thirds cannot read.

Photos by: Bolivian Bible Society: Javier Garcia, Chilean Bible Society: Maurice Harvey.



PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- Please pray that God will help the Chilean Bible Society identify people who can't read as people often "hide" their illiteracy.
- Please pray that women will come to know Jesus as they learn to read and write.
- Pray that the government will continue to approve the Bible Society of Panama's literacy programs.

How do you share the message of the Gospel with a primarily oral culture? How can you leave behind the Word of God if the people cannot access it?

Often, literacy is part of the solution.

In this context, SIL International has invested in the translation of the New Testament in Ngobe. However, it has not been distributed to full capacity because the illiteracy rate is so high. So today, the Bible Society of Panama (BSP) is reaching out to this community by teaching the people to read. In the past, the government and other organizations, such as UNICEF, have tried to provide literacy classes; however, the Ngobe Buglé did not accept them, because the teachers were Latinos and not from their own tribe. Amazingly, the Ngobe Buglé have accepted the entrance of BSP, who are using teachers of their own ethnic group.

Panamanian researchers helped design a curriculum and methodology that would effectively reach this people group. Their efforts are now bearing fruit. Today, 550 people within this people group know how to read. It's a beginning. May the God of small beginnings continue to be with this people and with this program, bringing the Word to life.



GOD IS OPENING HANDS



Bolivia
Read to Live aims to teach 1,800 illiterate women to read and write.

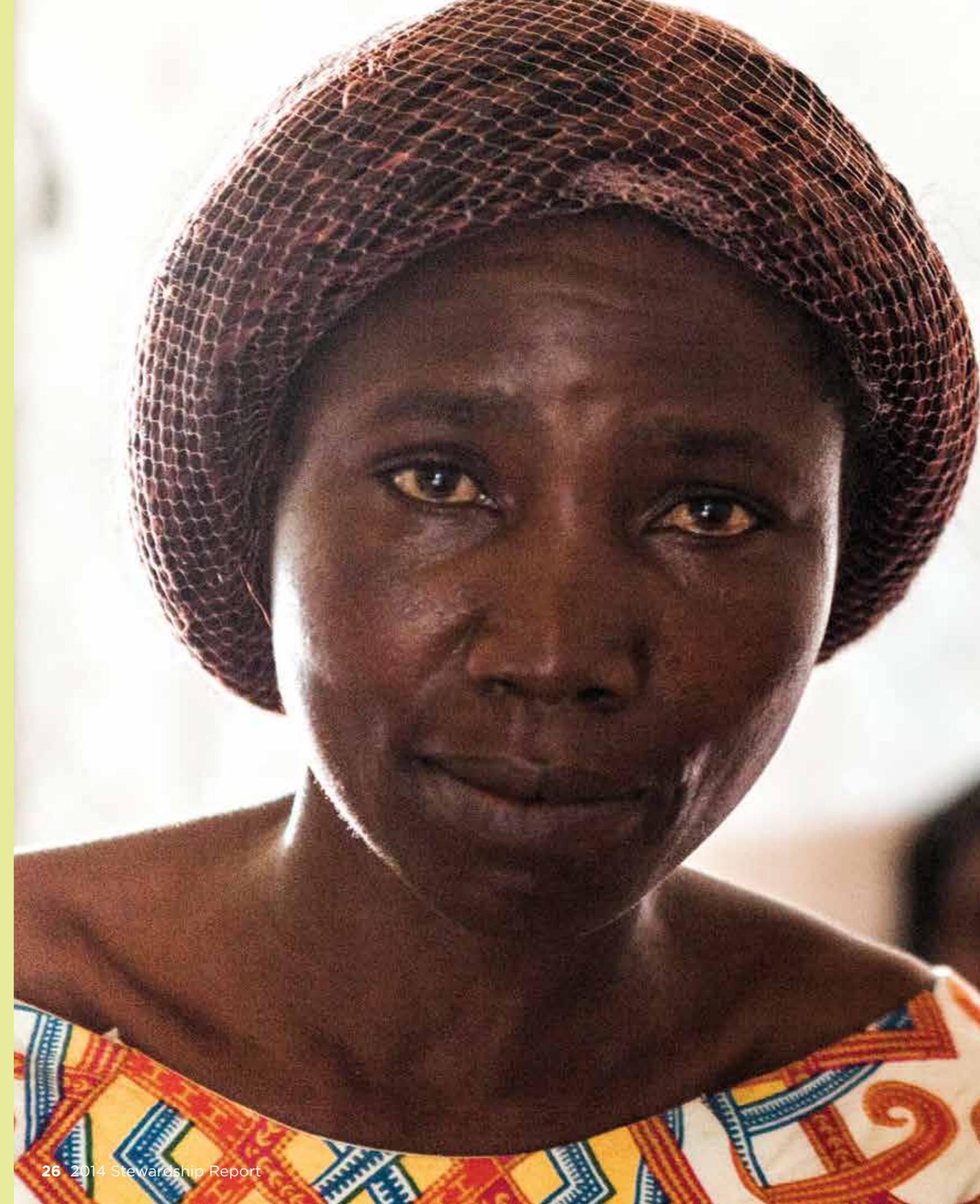


Chile
This year, 485 female students completed their Bible-based literacy process

and received guidance regarding violence against women. In the wider community, American Bible Society reached more than 3,500 people with violence prevention workshops.

"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!"

MATTHEW 5.9 (GNT)



MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

Konda Tia

| WITNESSING HEALING

Imagine watching your home burn down to the ground. Imagine your peaceful neighborhood becoming a war zone, forcing you to flee the only home you ever knew and trying to escape militias who will use sexual violence to achieve military gains. You leave behind all of your possessions, all of your safety and security.

Millions of people experience this type of trauma every day.

That's why we began Bible-based trauma healing work five years ago in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The country has experienced decades of unrest and has one of the highest rates of sexual violence in the world. In the DRC, more than 48 women are victims of sexual violence every hour.

From Swaziland to the Caribbean, Bible-based trauma healing helps churches serve hurting people through a Bible-centered program that uses best practices in mental health and explores 217 unique Scriptures in a safe, caring community. Yet, with more than 1 billion people affected by trauma around the world today, the demand for Bible-based trauma healing work has rapidly expanded around the world. We are now working with more than 200 partners including Wycliffe, Seed Company and SIM. The program helps participants:

- Ask real questions of God
- Express lament
- Take pain to the cross
- Begin the forgiveness process

Photo by Peter Edman.

Today, a woman named Konda Tia is a trauma healing facilitator in a refugee camp in South Sudan. Where she was once overwhelmed by the devastations of war, she is now an empowered survivor:

“Before I attended this workshop, I was overcome by trauma because I was thinking so hard about what was happening to my country, about when the conflict started; I saw all our homes burn. I would ask myself, ‘When will all this fighting stop? How can I plan for the future?’ I wondered if I would survive and, if I did, ‘How are we going to solve all

these problems?’ But now, after I learned all these stories, I have peace and comfort. I used to only be able to sleep three hours at night, but with this new peace, I am able to sleep all night. I am so happy because through this workshop, I was helped so much by these stories.”

As participants in Bible-based trauma healing encounter the God of restoration, the one who makes all things new, they encounter the hope needed for the journey ahead. They, in turn, become carriers of this Gospel message into the most devastated places on earth.

“Trauma is the experience of the self being silenced.”

—Dr. Diane Langberg



A group discussion during a trauma healing workshop that took place over Easter 2014 in Ezo, South Sudan, close to the border with the Central African Republic. Participants had suffered much at the hands of the notorious Lord's Resistance Army, which has terrorized communities in Uganda, South Sudan, DR Congo and Central African Republic.



Our Trauma Healing work currently includes:

2,128 Facilitators

200 Partner Organizations

54 Countries

173 Languages, including Braille, for Adults

15 Languages for Oral Cultures

6 Languages for Children



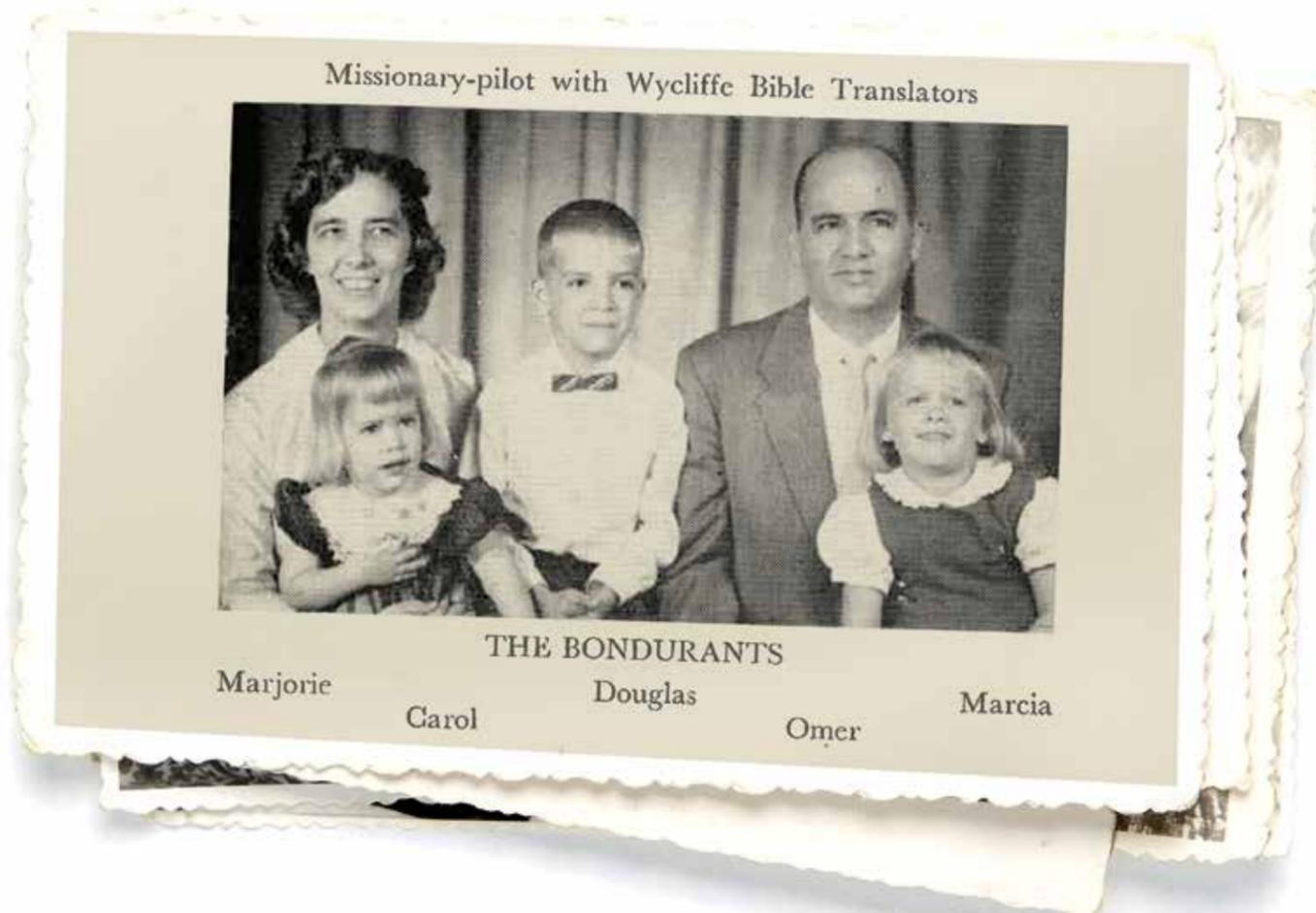
PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- Please pray with us for people who need the freedom and forgiveness that only the cross of Christ can bring.
- Please pray with us for the people who have lost their homes, and their livelihoods through war and conflict. Pray that the God “who makes all things new” would heal and comfort his people with a vision and promise for a new creation.
- Pray that the God whose throne sits upon a foundation of justice would bring forgiveness and justice in this life and in the life to come.

Photos courtesy of Peter Edman and The Seed Company.

“The LORD says,
 ‘Here is my servant, whom I strengthen—
 the one I have chosen, with whom I am pleased.
 I have filled him with my Spirit,
 and he will bring justice to every nation.
 He will not shout or raise his voice
 or make loud speeches in the streets.
 He will not break off a bent reed
 nor put out a flickering lamp.
 He will bring lasting justice to all.
 He will not lose hope or courage;
 he will establish justice on the earth.
 Distant lands eagerly wait for his teaching.”

—ISAIAH 42.1-4 (GNT)



FROM MISSIONARY KID TO LEGACY MAKER, A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Carol Hinson

| WITNESSING GOD'S WORK THROUGH THE AGES

Carol Hinson knows that Bible translation is an urgent task of eternal importance. But she also knows that taking God's Word to the unreached and least-reached people groups of the world requires risk, ingenuity and bold faith. Today, Carol, an American Bible Society financial partner and former Wycliffe missionary kid, remembers the adventurous and fulfilling lives of her faithful parents, Omer and Marjorie Bondurant. The

Bondurants served as missionaries in the Amazon jungle in Peru, where Carol was born by candlelight in the 1950s. Today, although she no longer lives in the Amazon jungle or relies on a canoe for transportation, Carol still supports Bible translation because she has seen firsthand God's Word transform lives. We are thankful for passionate and faithful partners like Carol who make it possible to continue to share God's Word where needed most.

Photos courtesy of: Carol Hinson.



1. The PBY Catalina plane was a large part of the Bondurant family life. They even flew in it on a 2-day trip down from the U.S. to their jungle home in Yarinacocha, Peru.



2. In Peru, Carol's dad, Omer Bondurant, flew the PBY Catalina. This multi-engine plane, with big bubble windows on each side, served to bring the Gospel to many of Peru's unreached and least-reached people groups.



4. Carol had a wonderful childhood growing up in a jungle paradise, going to school with other MK's, swimming in Lake Yarina and making their own kind of fun. Life in the Amazon had its challenges (ie, extreme heat) but also its rewards (hard to match a gentle rain on an aluminum roof).



3. Marjorie Bondurant, Carol's mom, typing in the early years.



5. Carol and her husband, Jay, in their North Carolina home today.

THE WISE STEWARD

OPENING EARTH, BREAKING GROUND

Dear Friends,

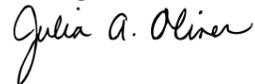
As I reflect on the end of another fiscal year, I am once again overwhelmed with gratitude for you and your support of God's Word. Your prayers and investment are vital to us as we enter our 199th year of ministry and commit to ministry that includes Bible translation, strategic Scripture provision and digital platforms to help young people engage with God's Word.

I am pleased to report to you that thanks to your investment, American Bible Society remains a vibrant and vital Christian organization. Whether we are sharing God's Word with tornado survivors in Illinois or developing cutting-edge approaches to Bible translation around the world, American Bible Society remains committed to faithfully stewarding your gifts to share God's Word in a context and format that reaches hearts with the knowledge of Jesus.

Due to the generosity of past donors, who provided funding through planned giving vehicles such as annuities and bequests, as well as donors who generously contributed in many ways this year, American Bible Society was blessed with the resources to fund \$1.40 in program ministry for every \$1.00 received from donations and Scripture sales this year. This is an amazing blessing from God, through you. We pledge our commitment to continue to increase our efficiency in the use of your contributions and review the effectiveness of the ministry programs we deploy. We pledge thoughtful and honest stewardship of the resources provided for today and tomorrow so that all people can meet God in the pages of Scripture.

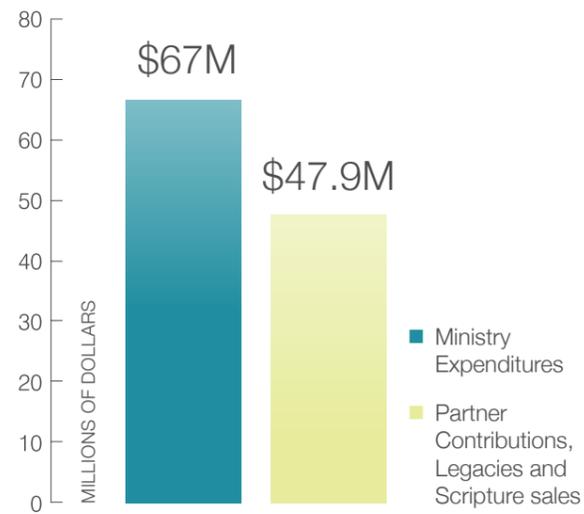
May God bless you in the days ahead and keep you faithful to his promises.

With gratitude,



Julia A. Oliver, CPA/PFS, CGMA
Chief Financial Officer

MINISTRY SNAPSHOT



Because of a legacy of mission funding, 100% of every dollar you give goes directly to Bible ministry projects.

MISSION FUNDS



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 (\$ MILLIONS)

REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED*	TOTAL
Contributions	\$ 22.0	\$ 11.1	\$ 33.1
Legacies	6.1	0.6	6.7
Scripture sales	8.1	-	8.1
Net investment return and valuation changes	58.0	11.0	69.0
Other	3.3	0.1	3.4
Net assets released from restrictions	10.2	(10.2)	-
Total Revenues	\$ 107.7	\$ 12.6	\$ 120.3

MINISTRY INVESTMENT

Program Ministry

Domestic outreach	40.1	-	40.1
International outreach	26.9	-	26.9
Total Program services	67.0	-	67.0

Support services

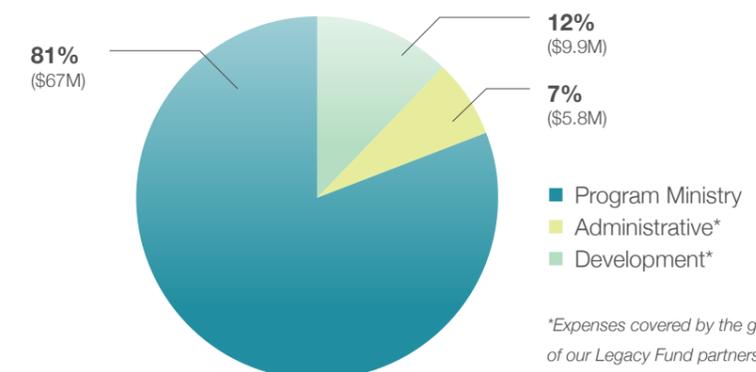
Administration	5.8	-	5.8
Development	9.9	-	9.9

Total Expenses	\$ 82.7	-	\$ 82.7
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*Includes Temporarily and Permanently restricted net assets

Downloads of the American Bible Society financial information (Form 990s) are available at AmericanBible.org. As required by the Internal Revenue Service, audited financial statements (the source for this summarized presentation) are available upon request, as well as on the American Bible Society website.

2014 MINISTRY EXPENSES



*Expenses covered by the generosity of our Legacy Fund partners.

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JULY 1, 2013 — JUNE 30, 2014

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Cheryl R. Holland

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Founder of Dearolf & Mereness LLP

James C. Eastman

Founder and Managing Director of Regional Family Offices

Harvey E. Hoskins

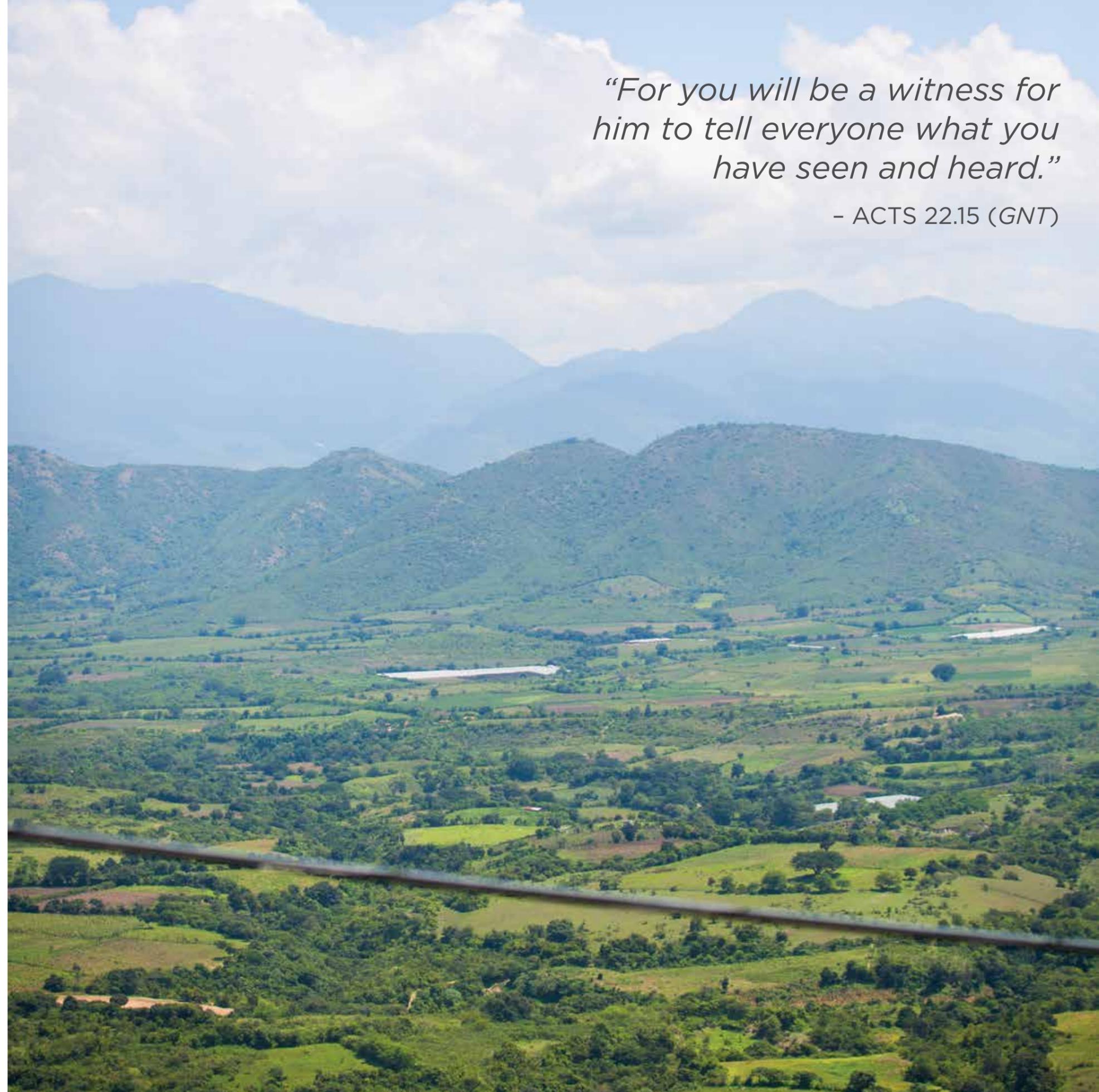
Co-founder of Hoskins & Company

David J. Trobisch

Professor and Biblical Scholar

"For you will be a witness for him to tell everyone what you have seen and heard."

- ACTS 22.15 (GNT)



MAKING 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

AmericanBible.org