

WordatWork

FROM THE CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY • SUMMER 2010



The Wind & The Shepherd

God's Word blew across a shepherd's path to fuel a hungry heart.

IN THIS ISSUE:

God Speaks Through Spokes!

Military families will now be listening to God's Word together.

Fuelled By Faith

Evan MacKinnon is fuelling more than trucks across our great nation!

District Profile: Eastern Ontario

Don Miller believes in building on what our ancestors started.





07 | BIBLE-A-MONTH

Fuelling the Fire...

The fuel is the Bible's life-giving message that touches hearts – showing people just how much God loves them.

03 | WORD AT HOME

God Speaks Through Spokes!

Bike for Bibles is a CBS fundraising activity – taking place in five provinces in 2010.

05 | WORD FACTS

The Bible...

China's new best-seller • America's favourite book
• The most shoplifted book in the world.

06 | SUPPORTER PROFILE

Fuelled By Faith

Evan MacKinnon isn't just fuelling trucks across our great nation.

09 | WORD FOR THE WORLD

The Wind & The Shepherd

God's Word continues to fuel hungry hearts all over the globe.

11 | WORD ON THE STREET

Updates

YAHERO is taking the Bible to a generation of virtual explorers. Rebuilding Haiti with God's Word.

12 | ASK THE BIBLE EXPERT

Scripture Questions Answered...

Hart Wiens' regular column – answering Scripture questions submitted by our readers.

13 | DISTRICT PROFILE

Eastern Ontario

Don Miller believes in building on what our ancestors started.

14 | ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In Recognition

We recognize, with gratitude, those who have shared God's Word by giving to the Canadian Bible Society.

Our Vision is to reach every person with the life-giving Word of God and to encourage its use.

If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the District Office nearest you or call the National Support Office: 1.416.757.4171 or 1.800.465.2425.

Address all correspondence and change of address information to:

Canadian Bible Society

10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2S4

TOLL FREE: 1.800.465.2425 FAX: 416.757.3376

PHONE: 416.757.4171 EMAIL: donorenq@biblesociety.ca

Visit our website to learn more about our work.

WEBSITE: www.biblesociety.ca

ONLINE STORE: www.biblescanada.com

EDITOR: MARTA LOFRANCO | mlofranco@yahero.com

PUBLICATION DESIGN: RIORDON DESIGN | WWW.RIORDONDESIGN.COM

DISTRICT OFFICE	PHONE	EMAIL
Maritimes Centre	1.888.242.5397	maritimes@biblesociety.ca
St. John's	1.709.722.7929	bthistle@biblesociety.ca
Québec	1.418.692.2698	ptherrien@biblesociety.ca
Ottawa	1.613.236.3910	ottawa@biblesociety.ca
Toronto	1.416.689.3437	centralontario@biblesociety.ca
London	1.519.432.6663	wdawson@biblesociety.ca
Winnipeg	1.204.257.8835	winnipeg@biblesociety.ca
Saskatoon	1.306.664.2480	lbachiu@biblesociety.ca
Edmonton	1.780.439.7729	mbusenius@biblesociety.ca
Calgary	1.877.439.7729	mbusenius@biblesociety.ca
Vancouver	1.604.872.6691	vancouver@biblesociety.ca
Bermuda	1.441.297.4193	donorenq@biblesociety.ca
Secteur francophone	1.514.524.7873	lgordon@biblesociety.ca
Translation Office	1.519.741.8285	hwuens@biblesociety.ca

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friend:



I don't like to say that I have God in my life, rather I like to say that God has me! Any of us can claim that God is in our lives, but when God has us, that's when we act – allowing all that He's planned for us personally, and in ministry, to be realized for impacting lives.

Already, we've had a powerful impact on devastated lives in Haiti. With your generous help, we've met the immediate physical and spiritual needs of people affected by the earthquake. In the coming months, we will continue to provide Scriptures through our partnership with *Haiti Partners* to bring the Bible's message of hope and strength to this troubled area.

As we look toward the remaining months in 2010, we see the transitions that lie ahead as fulfillment of the call that God has placed upon the Canadian Bible Society. Transition is often viewed as a challenge; yet it's the outcome of transition that gives us renewed energy and passion for the Bible cause in Canada and around the globe.

Many things have helped us chart a course that is fiscally responsible while highlighting the relevance of our ministry. We don't always know all the answers, but we know the One who does, so we move forward in anticipation of all that he has planned.

One new initiative is that the role of the District Directors is changing and so is their name. The new *Directors of Ministry Advancement (DMAs)* will advance the ministry of CBS by networking with other ministries and churches in order to complement their ministry with the Scripture resources that we offer. We believe that CBS can distribute more Scriptures through our partners, through grants, and through subsidized programs than we have traditionally done in retail. DMAs will also be playing a greater role in fundraising. District Boards will be the eyes and ears of the district, bringing to light the Scripture needs of the regions they represent. With fewer

personnel in the "field", District Boards will assume a greater role and we are really pleased with this new model. Amidst the changes, there is much to celebrate as Bible distribution and grants by districts and national programs are all increasing.

We are excited about meeting a generation of children with the Bible-based online virtual world of YAHERO. I was recently at a conference where I watched as kids laughed and played on computers in this new online world. Through YAHERO, CBS is on the cutting edge – offering the Bible in a radical new way for kids, while also resourcing parents and churches with the tools they need in this digital world. We are growing boys and girls into heroes of the faith!

On behalf of all CBS staff, I offer a huge thank you for your support. I also covet your prayers for the months to come. Recently, I watched the Hollywood film "The Blind Side". After a long journey toward education, the main character, Michael, walked through the portals of his school and he observed the inscription, "With men this is possible. With God all things are possible." Let's imagine together all that is possible for the Canadian Bible Society as we rely on His counsel, His strength and His power!

For the Bible cause,

Ted Seres
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

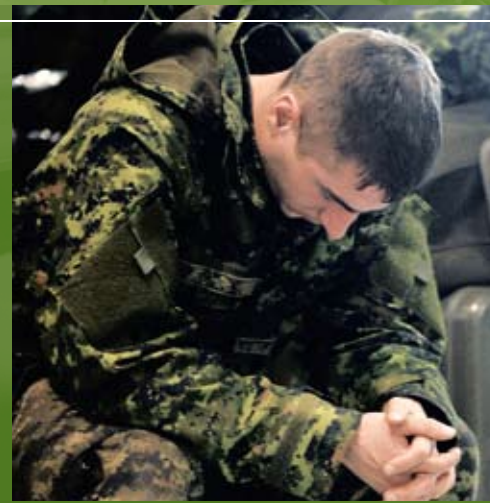
"With all your heart you must trust the LORD and not your own judgment. Always let him lead you, and he will clear the road for you to follow." *Proverbs 3:5-6 (CEV)*

“You are my place of safety and my shield.” *Psalm 119.114 (CEV)*



God Speaks Through Spokes!

Yes, God really does speak through spokes and through dedicated Bike for Bibles participants like Wib Dawson. Wib is a Director of Ministry Advancement for the Canadian Bible Society and an avid cyclist who has participated in Bike for Bibles for the past 12 years.



Bike for Bibles is a Canadian Bible Society fundraising activity that is taking place in five provinces in 2010. Dollars to provide Bibles for various CBS initiatives are raised through the sponsorship of cyclists. By participating in Bike for Bibles, people of all ages, walks of life, and denominations can achieve fitness, fun and fellowship with a purpose to distribute God's life-giving Word.

HERE'S WHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING:

"Last year's tour took us through some of Ontario's most beautiful farmland, breathtaking vistas, the shining shore of Lake Huron, and the hilly and challenging highlands of Grey County – all that a cyclist could hope for. Combine all of that with the God-given privilege of raising funds to share the good news and the result is another fantastic Bike for Bibles ride. I can't wait for this year's ride coming up in August!" – Wib Dawson

"Through the years, I have connected with lots of fellow cyclists, support staff and people who opened up their homes and churches to feed and accommodate us. The 'Bike For Bibles' rides have been such a tremendous blessing in my life. When raising support for the Canadian Bible Society to do the awesome work of making the Word of God available is combined with love for Christ and the love of cycling, things on earth cannot get much better." – Klaas Slagter

"The beauty of God's creation is much more appreciated when travelling at these speeds. Jesus has put us here to be His servants and it becomes very 'real' when we help each other through wind, up hills, sharing snacks or fixing

flats. Although we are each pedalling separately, it is through our group efforts that we finish each day – often exhausted but exhilarated. There is a feeling of accomplishment having pedalled over 100 kms. Let's keep on spinning!" – Leslie Meloche

The funds donated through the 2010 Bike for Bibles rides will be used to impact the lives of Canadian military personnel and their families, with the strength found in God's Word through Operation Bible.

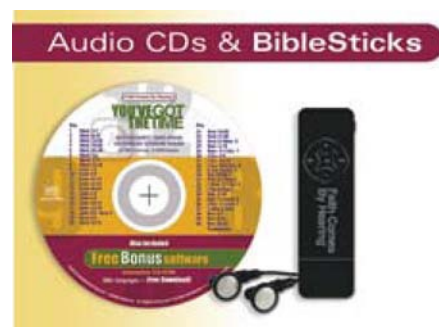
For more than 50 years, CBS has been providing Bibles to Canadian military personnel, and their lives continue to be touched by the Bible's message of hope. Military chaplain Charles Deogratias says, *"The impact the Bible has made in our soldiers is beyond imagination. It has changed their lives – you have to listen to them when they come back to us and say, 'Padre, I just read the Bible and I just told my friends back home and now they think I am crazy, but it is so nice to have the Word of God with me to comfort me through this tough time.'" Chaplain Deogratias*

continues, "The camouflage Bibles from CBS are a gift of God for our soldiers."

NEW OPERATION BIBLE PACK:

In addition to the camouflage military Bible, CBS has created a complete *Operation Bible Pack*. This will include the dramatized audio New Testament MP3 BibleStick players and MP3 CD's for our soldiers and their families. Families will now be listening to God's Word together – even though they may be miles apart.

Chaplain Deogratias comments, *"It would be wonderful if our soldiers and their families received an audio New Testament – what a blessing this would be for them. I can't even begin to imagine the impact this would make upon their lives."*



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Join the ride in your province
- Sponsor a rider
- Pray for riders, roadies, and recipients of God's Word through Bike for Bibles

Registration forms at www.biblesociety.ca

With your support, we can get God's Word into the hands of Canadian military personnel and their families – bringing them undeniable hope and strength!



THE BIBLE...

- CHINA'S NEW BEST-SELLER
- AMERICA'S FAVOURITE BOOK
- THE MOST SHOPLIFTED BOOK IN THE WORLD

WHAT IS IT?

Literally translated, the word Bible means 'book' or 'books'. And it's a collection of books written over the course of more than 1,000 years.

Christians see it as one of the ways God has made Himself known—telling us personal things about Himself, His relationship with us and His overall plans for the world.

The Bible was written in three different languages and on three different continents. Its many authors include kings, prophets, fishermen, poets and musicians.

WHAT'S IN IT?

The Bible includes poetry, legal documents, songs, letters, eyewitness accounts, people stories, historical documents and advice.

Its subject matter goes from the creation of all things to the end of time as we know it.

For the time in between, it covers:

- God's relationship with the ancient Hebrew nation;
- God's promise of a future deliverer;
- The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – the promised deliverer;
- The establishment and growth of the Church;
- Teaching and encouragement for those who are followers of Jesus.

HOW IS IT STRUCTURED?

The Bible is usually divided into two sections:

The Old Testament – texts written before Jesus Christ was born and covering God's dealings with the ancient Hebrew world and its people.

The New Testament – writings following the death of Jesus and covering His life and teaching, the establishment of the Christian church, and letters from church leaders.

Note: Christians are not entirely agreed on the number of books contained in the Old Testament. Protestants recognize 39, Catholics include 46, and Ethiopian Orthodox have as many as 54.

HOW MANY COPIES OF IT HAVE BEEN PRINTED OR SOLD?

The Bible is by far the best-selling book of all time. However, no one can be absolutely sure exactly how many copies have been printed, sold or distributed.

Bible Societies estimate the number printed between 1816 and 1975 to be approximately 2,458,000,000 – almost two and a half billion. Another survey, for the years up to 1992, puts it closer to six billion.

Fuelled By Faith

By: Susan Park, SPECIAL SUBMISSION TO CBS

**I thought I was
in control – now
I know God’s
in control!**

Every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. in the boardroom at MacKinnon Transport, a group of Christian employees gather to pray. At the same time, a couple of transport drivers are pulling onto the shoulder of the road to join their co-workers in prayer.

A few years ago, such a practice was unheard of in this office. But that was before Evan MacKinnon, President and CEO of MacKinnon Transport, was introduced to a totally new way of life.

“Ten years ago I made a number of sweeping changes in my life – changes that fostered a strong sense of spirituality that I had never before experienced. It was around the same time that I met my wife, Linda.”

After a few years of spiritual growth and discovery, Evan joined Linda at her church in Waterloo, ON (Koinonia Christian Fellowship) and, in the fall of 2006, took a New Testament Bible study course.

“It was through that course that I met Jesus. I have an addictive personality. If something is good I want more, which is why I’ve been grabbing every bit of knowledge I can – and why my faith has grown so much since 2006.”



Since being baptized in 2008, Evan has been surprising people by sharing his faith widely. *“I’m so much more calm and accepting than I used to be. Many of my employees feel comfortable chatting with me about their faith. A lot of people in the trucking industry have seen the changes in me which affords me dozens of opportunities to share my faith and new lifestyle.”*

When we think of trucks and truck-drivers, most of us just focus on the products that they deliver; however, Evan’s focus is on the person behind the wheel with whom he can share his faith. In the company’s quarterly newsletter, he reaches out to his office staff, drivers, customers and suppliers – fuelling them with his passion for God and His Word.

“I’m not a forceful Christian,” says Evan. “I accept other people’s right to choose. I sincerely believe that leading by example rather than through promotion is the way to win souls for Christ. St. Francis of Assisi said it best, ‘Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words.’”

For Evan, the third chapter of Proverbs is a guiding light, particularly verses 5 through 9.



Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way. Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are; simply obey the LORD and refuse to do wrong. If you do, it will be like good medicine, healing your wounds and easing your pains. Honor the LORD by making him an offering from the best of all that your land produces. Proverbs 3:5-9 (GNT)

Evan MacKinnon trusts in the Lord with all of his heart and he relies on God to show him how to run his business. We thank Evan for his support of the Canadian Bible Society and for his faith that isn’t just fuelling trucks across our great nation – it’s fuelling lives!

Bible Month

By: **Marta LoFranco**, EDITOR, WORD AT WORK MAGAZINE

A flickering flame can be a thing of great beauty and endless fascination. At a restaurant, the light of a single candle sets the tone for a romantic dinner. In Ecuador's remote mountain villages, small flames are often the night's only source of light. Here at home, we gather around crackling campfires to sing songs, toast marshmallows, and make some of our best memories. But fire can also be a thing of devastating power – taking down an entire city block or a whole forest of mature trees.

They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” *Luke 24.32 (NIV)*

History shows us that fires have had a devastating effect on cities like London, Chicago, St. John's, Toronto and many more. On April 19, 1904, the Great Toronto Fire, which originated in a factory just west of Bay Street, destroyed a large section of the downtown core. It took nine hours to get it under control and the fire's glow could be seen for many kilometres in all directions. The weather fuelled the life of this fire with winds of 48 kilometres per hour. That day, firefighters from Hamilton and as far as Buffalo came to the city's aid. The fire destroyed 104 buildings and put thousands of people out of work. However, more stringent safety laws were put into place because of this fire and the city's fire

department was expanded to become a critical service.

Toronto firefighter, Jeff Hubbard, tells us that while fire does have incredible power, it definitely requires three elements in order to be strong:

FUEL – a material that will burn
HEAT – to bring the fuel to a point of ignition
OXYGEN – to keep the burning process going

Let's ponder the following analogies.
THE FUEL is the Bible's life-giving message that touches hearts – showing people just how much God loves them.
THE HEAT is our faith – an unwavering point of trust in Him and His Word.
THE OXYGEN is the Holy Spirit – igniting a powerful fire deep within our hearts to transform our lives.

TRANSLATION NOTE FROM HART WIENS

In this article, Marta discusses the power of fire. It is the enabling “oxygen” of God's Spirit that breathes and blows into the fire of God's transforming work. It is interesting that in the Hebrew Scriptures, which make up our Old Testament, the word “ruach” which we most often translate as “Spirit” also means “breath” or “wind”. God's Spirit is the wind or breath, which provides the oxygen needed to breathe life into the transforming fire ignited by faith and fuelled by God's Word.

Word Reach



Rev. Bandyony fans the fire in people's lives as they wait for a Bible in the language of their hearts.



Arulraj is a chaplain in the migrant worker camps – fuelling hungry hearts with God's Word.



Father Tran Si Tin works to revise the Jarai New Testament and to translate the Old Testament.

FANNING THE FIRE IN DR CONGO

Rev. Londroma Bandyony knows all about fire and its destructive power, but he also knows what it takes to fan the spark that has been started in people's hearts. Back in 1998, as he worked on translating the Bible into Lendu – spoken by one million people in the north-east – war broke out. He says, *“When the war came, we had to flee. When we dared to return, everything had been stolen or burned, including the translation of the Old Testament that we were working on.”* Rev. Bandyony and three colleagues, had to start the translation process all over again. Because the Bible Society can only pay half of their salaries, they must also have other jobs to support their families. He also explains that, before the war, many families owned a Bible in a language they could understand, *“But when the war broke out, many Bibles were lost. People fled and when they came back, their houses had been burned and their fields stripped of crops. The situation is better now, but people are not replacing their lost Bibles because they cannot afford to or they are waiting for the new translation.”* Rev. Bandyony works hard to fan the fire in people's lives as they wait for a copy of God's Word in the language of their hearts.

FUELLING THE FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

While you read this, an amazing spiritual harvest is taking place among the 14.5 million migrants who went to the Gulf States to

find work. Many of those coming to faith are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Somalia. And, as you would expect, they are desperate for the Bible in their own language. Believers from a hundred different nations meet in the desert late at night, to listen in awe to the Bible's message. In the Gulf workers' camps, Christian house groups have been springing up – fuelled by a passion and hunger to discover more about God. Prakash is a young man who became his family's sole supporter after the death of his father. He journeyed to the United Arab Emirates to join its booming construction industry. But then work began to dry up and many of Prakash's co-workers lost their jobs. He was gripped with fear and despair. At a prayer meeting at his workers' camp in the desert, Matthew 6.27 came alive for him – *‘Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?’* At that moment, Prakash found peace in his heart and strength from God's written Word. Between shifts, some workers are serving as pastors – offering prayer and support to the people around them. Arulraj first arrived in the Gulf to work in the oil industry. Today, he has a different job as a chaplain in the migrant workers' camp – fuelling hungry hearts with the riches of God's Word.

IGNITING THE FIRE IN VIETNAM

Christians in Vietnam, where the Church has suffered much, receive copies of the Bibles at a price they can afford. How is this possible? It's because of a fire that was ignited in the heart of a priest more than 40 years ago. In 1970, Father Tin set up a team to begin translating the New Testament into Jarai. A short time later, he and his team were captured by Vietcong soldiers and taken to a Cambodian jungle prison. Throughout this traumatic experience, God's Word comforted the team. Every day, Father Tran Si Tin prayed that God would make a way for the team to complete the New Testament. After a year in prison, they were released and returned to the village in Vietnam. He immediately began work on the Jarai New Testament – working day and night until it was completed and published in 1973. Today, there are 41,000 Jarai Christians. Father Tin, along with a team of ten, is now working on a revision of the Jarai New Testament and the translation of the entire Bible. There are currently two Jarai Bible translation projects – one Roman Catholic and the other Protestant. The two groups meet regularly to exchange ideas and to discuss translation issues. The fire ignited by God in one man's heart has touched thousands of Jarai people in Central Vietnam – spreading an unquenchable fire of good news.

Because of Bible-a-Month, God's Word is fuelling fires in hearts all over the world! Your support is the oxygen that keeps the fire burning – allowing Bible Societies to ignite a deeper love for God as they distribute His life-changing Word!

Bible Month

Bible-a-Month is fuelling hungry hearts with the riches of God's Word!



“Now God Speaks My Language!”



For decades, the Canadian Bible Society has been facilitating the translation of the Old and New Testaments into more than a dozen aboriginal languages spoken in Canada. While many people have contributed to these projects, for the past nine years Ruth Heeg, CBS Translation Consultant, has been shaping the Bible Society's native language translations, and her work has had an incredible impact.

Ruth, along with an Algonquin team, recorded an audio version of the Gospel of John in the Algonquin language. Upon completing the recording, Ruth edited and added musical interludes for emphasis. The recording received positive feedback from all who heard it and, as one Algonquin reviewer said, *“This audio version will really be helpful for those in our community who have difficulty reading, and as they listen they too will be able to hear God speaking to them in our language.”*

Over and over again, translators have seen people overcome by emotion when they've heard an audio translation of God's Word for the very first time. Many have exclaimed, *“Now God speaks my language!”*

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” *Romans 10.17 (NIV)*

Gospel of Mark launched in Plains Cree!

Most recently, Ruth worked with a team that has published the Gospel of Mark in Plains Cree. The Gospel, in both print and audio format, was launched in Saskatchewan at a ceremony on May 19, 2010. The lead translator, Rev. Stan Cuthand, who received the *National Aboriginal Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2009, is a Cree elder, Anglican priest, and recognized expert in his language. He works with a dedicated team to give his people God's Word in a format they can read and understand.

Hart Wiens, CBS Director of Scripture Translation, says, *“Strangers don't live in your home. Strangers only come to visit. When the Word of God first came to the Cree people, it came in English and English was a stranger. Today, a newly translated version of God's Word comes in the Cree language and it is finding a home in their hearts.”*

“Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts.” *Colossians 3.16 (GNT)*



Rev. Stan Cuthand receives a framed copy of Psalm 23 from Ruth Heeg and Hart Wiens in recognition of his efforts in completing the draft of the Plains Cree New Testament and 40% of the Old Testament.



Through Bible-a-Month, you can help us fuel an unquenchable fire – burning deeply within the hearts of men, women, and children in Canada and around the world!

A gift of \$25 each month will ensure that at least one Bible will be translated, printed, and distributed – sharing *The Word. For Life.* with a man, woman, or child who is waiting somewhere in the world.

Yes! I would like to join Bible-a-Month with a monthly gift of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 Other \$ _____

Please deduct my gift from my credit card each month (*credit card details to the right*)

Please deduct my gift from my bank account each month (*void cheque enclosed*)

or

I would like to give a one-time gift in the amount of \$ _____ (*enclosed is my cheque*)

or

Please charge my:

Visa MasterCard American Express

Thank you for sharing *The Word. For Life.* with Canada and the world.

Kindly return this form with your gift so that your donation can go to work immediately. If project needs have been met, gifts will be used where most needed. For your own protection, please do not send cash in the mail. Make your cheque payable to Canadian Bible Society. For tax purposes, an annual receipt will be issued at year-end for all contributions. Charitable Business No. 11882 9647 RR0001.

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL



Canadian Bible Society

The Word. For Life.

Canadian Bible Society
10 Carnforth Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4A 2S4

TEL: 416.757.4171
TOLL FREE: 1.800.465.2425
FAX: 416.757.3376
EMAIL: donorenq@biblesociety.ca
WEBSITE: www.biblesociety.ca

China's Growing Church is Fuelled by God's Word!

The Church in China is growing faster than we can imagine! Church leaders share how thousands turn to Christ every single day, with 500,000 baptisms every year. This is equivalent to over 450 average size Canadian churches coming to birth every month. These vibrant new believers have one thing in common – they all long for their own Bible. However, with such rapid church growth, there is a vast Bible famine. In some places, up to 100 believers share a single Bible.

Seventy-year-old Jin can't stop singing or smiling. "Reading the Bible is like having God talk to you," she says. Jin earns her living as a watermelon grower, but always suffered from travel sickness on the bus journey to the nearest town to sell her wares. "One

day I prayed, 'Lord, if you let me not feel sick on this journey, I promise to take whatever I earn today and buy a Bible.' I didn't feel sick and I kept my promise to God. After a year, I was baptized and I changed my name." She adds with a smile, "It means God's love."



Years later, Jin walked for three hours in sub-zero temperatures to get to church. The reason? On this day, free Bibles were being given out to the congregation and she wanted one. This would be Jin's second Bible. The first was 20 years old, battered from daily reading, and missing a section of Genesis that simply fell out.

People like Jin are in need of God's Word to fuel the fire that's been ignited in their land!



Canadian Bible Society

The Word. For Life.

Hundreds pack into Sunday Services leaving many more outside. Nothing deters them from coming to hear the Bible!

The Wind & The Shepherd

Many years ago when I visited my missionary parents in Spain, I met Ana, the daughter of a shepherd. She shared with us an inspiring story of how her father came to faith.

One day in 1948, a shepherd named Antonio Sanchez was tending his sheep in the pastures of southeastern Spain. On his way back home, the wind blew a piece of torn paper across his path. He picked it up and discovered it was a page from the Bible – John’s Gospel, chapter 10 – the story of the Good Shepherd. He took the paper home and read it many times. Soon after, he decided to ask Jesus to be his Good Shepherd and, with a deep faith burning in his heart, he began his search for a Bible.

His wife and children also came to faith but the closest church was many hours away. For 10 years, Antonio and his family fed their faith by reading God’s Word and praying together. They later moved to a city where

they attended church faithfully. After being baptized, Antonio was on a life-long quest to know God better.

Antonio lived to be 94 years old and, ever since John Chapter 10 blew across his path, this dear man shared the good news about the Good Shepherd with everyone he met. His daughter Ana says, *“The legacy that my father left us lives on in our hearts and I thank God that my parents became believers and shared God’s Word with me. My favourite memories of my father are of him reading his Bible and praying.”*

God’s Word continues to fuel hungry hearts all over the globe. But imagine with me for a moment if the page that blew across the road that day had not been in Antonio’s heart language. He may have picked it up, but he wouldn’t have been able to read it and consequently he and his family may never have received the Bible’s message of hope.

There are still over 4,000 languages that don’t have even one book of the Bible. It’s for this reason that Bible Societies are at work – bringing God’s Word to thousands who wait.

The Institute for Computer Assisted Publishing (ICAP) is doing significant work at the forefront of the delivery and support of computer tools. Today, 2,928 active Bible translators use the ICAP software tools in order to shave years off the time that it takes to translate the Bible.

With the advent of computers and the increasing reliance on electronic communications, CBS is using computers to literally blow God’s Word around the world. They are linking translators with consultants – supporting Bible translation and ultimately enabling people to receive God’s Word through media other than the printed page.

By: **Marta LoFranco**, EDITOR, WORD AT WORK MAGAZINE



I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. *John 10.11 (CEV)*

Bible translation projects around the world have one thing in common – they're all desperately needed!

MALI'S MALINKE SPEAKERS WAIT FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT...

Over the past twenty years, churches have been planted among the 100,000 Malinke people in Mali. But their only Bible is in Barmanan – another tribal language – with many words that are too hard for the Malinke people to understand. The translation of the New Testament in Malinke is now underway. Soon, they will hear God speak to them in their heart language and they will know that He cares about them too.

ALBANIANS WAIT FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT...

In Albania, during the 50-year Communist regime – which ended in 1991 – the Bible was banned and burned. Today, the New Testament in modern Albanian is available for the growing churches. But they still wait for the completion of the Old Testament so they can have God's entire life-changing story.

WHEN COMPLETED, TRANSLATIONS WILL TELL OF THE FATHER'S GREAT LOVE, IN LANGUAGES THAT WILL RESOUND IN HIS CHILDREN'S HEARTS...

When I picture that, I think of someone like Pio Osifera in the Solomon Islands. The launch of the Bible in Wala, ended

Pio's struggle to read the text in English, which to him was a foreign language. He says, *"Reading the Bible in English is like climbing into a house built on stilts. Reading it in Wala is like having the house built on the ground and being invited to walk straight in."*

This is why so many translators seek the help of ICAP to guide and support their Bible translation projects. It's why linguists and churches ask the ICAP team to work with them to create new translations and revise outdated ones. It's why Bible Societies work with experienced CBS consultants like Jeff Klassen in Kitchener, Ontario to advise and guide translators in their daunting task to bring new translations to life. Jeff says, *"I have dedicated my entire adult life to developing and implementing innovative software tools for Bible translators, publishers, and computer support staff so that the Bible's message can be proclaimed to change lives."* The CBS Translation Department also anchors the task of training translators around the globe to use the ICAP tools – making a way for countless lives to be touched by the Good Shepherd.

What do you think? Was it an accident that Antonio, the shepherd, noticed a paper blowing in the wind that day? Was it just by chance that he bent down to pick it up? Was it a coincidence that it was a page from a Spanish Bible with the story of Jesus the Good Shepherd? I don't think so. The wind of the Holy Spirit blew across Antonio's path that day – bringing God's Word to fuel a hungry heart.

God desires to reach every single person on earth with His life-changing Word! However, many are not as fortunate as Antonio and they still wait for the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow God's Word across their path. It is for this reason that Bible Societies work tirelessly to provide translation software, and teams of people to get God's Word into a language that people can read and understand.

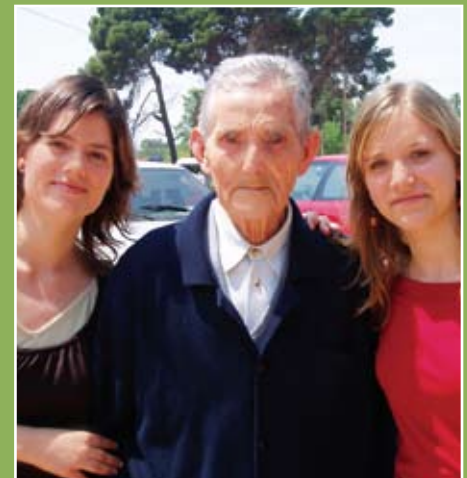
With your generous support, ICAP will continue to provide software tools free of charge, to translators all over the world, who could never afford them otherwise. Let's help them deliver God's message by the most direct, resourceful and relevant means at our disposal.



Pio Osifera helped translate the Bible into Wala so his people could hear God speaking to them.



People listen to Pio read the Bible in Wala, their own language, in Gwaedal village, Malaita.



Antonio Sanchez shared the good news about the Good Shepherd with everyone, including his granddaughters.

Updates >

YAHERO is taking the Bible to a generation of virtual explorers – showing them the Bible’s rich treasures!



The world of YAHERO launched in March 2010 and the YAHERO team has been receiving lots of positive feedback for this first-ever massive multiplayer online game (MMOG) that is Bible-based.

YAHERO, initiated by the Canadian Bible Society, has been designed to engage tween boys and girls with God’s Word while they have fun! Every month, a new YAHERO quest is released, allowing kids to play in an allegorical virtual world featuring games, activities, puzzles, events, and safe social networking. Kids are having lots of fun and becoming engaged with biblical truth!

YAHERO TALK...

“YAHERO is awesome because there are lots of fun mini-games and it’s a great way to have media with God.” – YAHERO BOY, AGE 8

“I liked making my own person and travelling around meeting other characters. It was good to find the clues and the verses from the Bible in the game.” – YAHERO GIRL, AGE 10

“YAHERO is quickly becoming a tremendous tool for churches and parents in sending a solid biblical message to kids while making that message loudly heard in their culture.” – PAM MCARTHUR, CHILDREN’S MINISTRY DIRECTOR, WESTERN ONTARIO DISTRICT, PAOC

“As the pastor of a church with a mandate to train the next generation, I commend the vision of YAHERO. It offers an online virtual world to children that captures their imagination and encourages Bible engagement in a fun, dynamic and safe way. I encourage families, churches and educators to get behind YAHERO – the potential is endless!” – STEVE FLEMING, SENIOR PASTOR, KOINONIA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BLOOMINGDALE, ON

“I’m thrilled to send my 10-year-old son to a website that I don’t have to monitor him on, and I was very impressed with the email I received after my son finished the quest.” – YAHERO DAD

HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS:

- Put up a poster in your church
- Give YAHERO cards to kids
- Tell others about YAHERO
- Order posters and cards at info@yahero.com



www.yahero.com

100% fun for kids • 100% confidence for parents!

Rebuilding Haiti with God’s Word

Thank you from CBS National Director, Ted Seres

“I’d like to thank all of our supporters for their generous response to the physical and spiritual needs of people impacted by Haiti’s earthquake. Magda Victor, General Secretary of the Haitian Bible Society (HBS), has expressed deep gratitude and asks us to pray for the spiritual reconstruction of her country. Through our collaboration with Haiti Partners (HP) to rebuild this nation, CBS has already delivered the Bibles that will be used as ‘textbooks’ for the literacy program.”

In the aftermath of the earthquake, we’ve received stories about demolished churches holding services without Bibles or hymn books. Pastors are conducting memorial services and leading funerals quoting Scripture from memory because all of their Bibles were lost. As local churches and ministries work through grief counselling and the emotional support of their communities, there is a dire need for Bibles.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE THE CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY:

- Confirmed additional needs and increased initial shipment to 20,000 Bibles
- Prepared a \$50,000 “care package” of New Testaments, Portions and Bibles for Haiti Partners
- Joined two grouped print runs, where Canadian donor funds subsidized an additional 15,000 French Bibles and 20,000 Haitian Creole Bibles
- Partnered with a publisher to provide 5,000 waterproof Creole Bibles for pastors and lay workers to use in ravaged rural and urban areas



Our donors’ generous and quick response will allow us to provide God’s Word where it is needed. Learn how you can help meet the urgent need for Bibles in Haiti. To donate call: 1.800.465.2425 or visit www.biblesociety.ca



Scripture Questions Answered...

Hart Wiens is the Director of Scripture Translation for the Canadian Bible Society. With extensive knowledge of Scripture translation, Hart and his team provide valuable support to hundreds of translation projects. Hart welcomes your Scripture questions for the next issue.



What are we to understand out of all these references to “spirit”? Do some apply more to Christian thought?

A: **RESPONSE PART 1**
Anna wrote to us to express her appreciation for recent articles in *Word At Work* and to discuss the challenges of coming up with accurate and meaningful translations of the Greek words for “blood” in the Bible. She requests a similar treatment of the various references to “soul” and “spirit”. I have chosen in this issue to begin with a brief look at a few references to “spirit” in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

When the word “spirit” occurs in what we call the Old Testament of our English Bible translations, it most frequently translates the Hebrew word “ruach” [רוּחַ]. Depending on the context, the Hebrew word can also be translated into English as “wind” or “breath”. The word is so rich in meaning that no English term matches it exactly. It is interpreted in various ways in the Bible: as the spiritual existence of God as contrasted with the material, flesh

and blood existence of human beings; as the life principle; as the ethical principle; and as the divine spirit common to God and to the “sons of God”.

One good example which highlights the difficulty of translating the Hebrew term “ruach” is found in Genesis 6:3, “*My Spirit shall not always strive with man.*” Here, the reference is to God’s spirit which is generally understood as “the power of God that gives life.” Consequently, the NEB version seeks to bring this meaning to readers in a way they can understand by translating, “my life-giving spirit.” Some newer versions are even more dynamic by rendering this as, “*I won’t let my life-giving breath remain in anyone forever*” (CEV) or, “*I will not allow people to live forever*” (GNT).

The same Hebrew word “ruach” appears in 1 Kings 10:5 with a quite different and more metaphorical connotation. The context here is the Queen of Sheba’s visit to Solomon’s kingdom. After the Queen has visited with Solomon and seen the

splendour of his life-style and his kingdom, the text says, “... *there was no more spirit in her*” (KJV, RSV, NRSV). While this rendering is certainly an accurate and acceptable way of translating the Hebrew, it obscures the real meaning of the text. The meaning here is that the Queen of Sheba was “overwhelmed” (NIV). Another way to bring out this essential meaning is, “*She was breathless*” (CEV). Similarly, “*It left her breathless and amazed*” (GNT).

These are just two examples that profile the challenges of translating the Hebrew word “ruach” into English. While it does certainly mean “spirit”, this rendering may be too narrow to capture the full meaning of the Hebrew. This is why reading the biblical text in more than one English version can often help us to capture its rich and life-transforming meaning more fully.

In our next issue, we will look at some references to “spirit” in the Greek text of the part of the Bible we call the New Testament.



A Proud Past. A Promising Future. Don Miller

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT IN EASTERN ONTARIO

“We’re building on what our ancestors started.”

Ask Don Miller what inspires him in his role as *Director of Ministry Advancement* in Eastern Ontario, and he’ll tell you that it’s the Bible Society’s rich history. *“I often think about the early days of the Bible Society and the passion of men and women for the Bible cause. In summer and winter they moved forward with conviction that God’s Word changes hearts and lives.”*

Ask Don what excites him about the future and he’s quick to point to the men and women of today whose passion for the Bible cause is equal to those of the past. *“We’re also blessed with a gifted group of people on the Board of Directors who actively participate in the work.”*

As a Methodist pastor for 17 years, Don felt a calling to join a small non-profit organization dedicated to resolving conflict. It was during this time that he met Brian

Strom, who suggested to him a part-time job with the Canadian Bible Society, and within a short time the local CBS board offered him the job on a full-time basis.

“Initially, it took a big step of faith for me to leave my pulpit but as God continued to open doors, I was able to step forward with confidence. That’s what faith is all about.”

In addition to providing speakers to local churches, the Bible Society provides Bibles for various celebrations. The Church in Kanata, known as “The Bridge”, relies on the Society to provide “The Children’s Bible” to families at the time of their children’s baptism.

With the National military headquarters in Ottawa, the Society’s Eastern Ontario office is very much in tune with the needs of our Canadian Forces. In its long history with the services, the Canadian Bible Society has developed a special Bible that is only available

through the military. An endorsement from the Commander in Chief of the Canadian Forces is featured prominently inside.

According to Don, *“We’re also trying to develop a special Bible for prison ministry. The Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, like so many other prisons, can give away many Bibles. We simply don’t have the resources to meet the challenge, but we have a distinctive round table group who are developing a new Bible to address the need.”*

The staff of the Eastern Ontario office are particularly proud of their achievements in the sphere of *Proclamation*, the continual reading of Scripture that goes on for about 10 days, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is with pride that Don talks about the longest running *Proclamation*, that took place in Brockville. In his own words, *“This kind of an event brings spiritual life and vitality to a community.”*

*“Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be
told about the Lord.”*

Psalm 22:30 (NIV)

An Upper Canada Bible Society booth
circa 1920.



“I’ve commanded you to be strong and brave. Don’t ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the LORD your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go.” *Joshua 1:9 (CEV)*

In Recognition

Memorial gifts and Celebration gifts are wonderful ways to honour the memory of a loved one or to remember the special occasion of someone dear to you.

We recognize, with gratitude, those who have shared God's Word by giving to the Canadian Bible Society. Gifts have been made in loving memory of the following people:

Verna Minnie Aimoto	Ina & Albert Geymonat	Daniel Edward Noonan
Alex Aitchison	Brian Giberson	Clyde Leslie Ovens
Alfred Alexander	Ursula Giberson	Lincoln J. Palmer
Clifford Allan	Frank Gowing	Joan Parker
David Allerson	Henry H. Harrison	Lauretta Perfetto
Genevieve Ball	Otto Heighton	Ruth Perry
Kenneth Bird	Larry Hepburn	Ed Peters
G. Stanley Boulter	Norma Hibbins	Penny Phinnemore
Olive Bridge	Agnes B. Hicks	Raymond Polvi
Tom Brook	Jean Holland	Dorothy Porter
Don Campbell	Ross Huebner	Jean Reiger
Alan William Carrie	Kathleen Huestis	Egbert Renkema
Ellen Cheesman	Millie Imrie	Jack Roberts
Elida Cleary	Gordon Walter Ironside	Minnie Roberts
Gladys Cole	Gail Jones	Dora Rosborough
Ruth Cooper	Merlin Kaley	Howard Rymer
Grattan Crosby	Jean Kerr	Jake Sawatsky
Celna Davidson	Judy Kerr	Doug Schieck
John De Hart	Vivian Isobel Kyle	Ron Schuurman
Peter Doerksen	Clara Lakevold	Elaine Squire
Richard G. Draper	Mancel Langin	Marilyn Steele
Peter J. Dyck	Alice LeBlanc	J. Clifford Stevenson
Albert Edwards	Marguerite Leckie	Harold E. Suphal
Ernie Enns	George Lederman	Nola-Mae Sutherland
Harold Fehderau	Bob Lourie	Arthur Taylor
Dorothy Ferguson	Barrie Lush	Eira Trant
Charles & Beatrice Finck	Amos Lyall	Dorothy Udbetter
Darell U. Fisher	Bert MacLean	Frieda Wagler
Pauline Forbes	M. D. MacLeod	Trudy Ward
Margaret (Peggy) Gates	Ambrose Joseph Mahoney	Rev. Frank Weed
	H. H. K. Mahood	Art Weich
	John Martin	Ernie Wickins
	Thomas McCauley	Karen Tina Eunice Williams
	Lillian M. Milne	Don Young
	Dorothy Milner	Kathryn Zabudsky
	Elsie Morrison	Nick Zahara
	Avery Murphy	

Please visit www.biblesociety.ca and click on **Word at Work** to view the **In Recognition** names received by CBS in 2009.

For more information about making In Memoriam or Celebration gifts, please call 1.800.465.2425.

YAHERO

JOIN THE QUEST!



www.yahero.com ★ Only \$5.95/month ★ Join Today!

FIRST
QUEST
FREE!

ENTER. PLAY. BECOME... A YAHERO!

YAHERO, initiated by the Canadian Bible Society, is the first-ever massive multiplayer online game (MMOG) supporting a biblical worldview – captivating tweens with stories and themes from the Bible.

WHY WILL KIDS AND PARENTS LOVE YAHERO?

100% fun for kids – 100% confidence for parents ★ Kids become heroes of Yahweh and His Word ★ Allegorical world with monthly quests, mini-games, puzzles, and contests
Safe social chat environment ★ No violent combat!



Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.

