FOR THE FAITH OF
The Gospel

MINISTRY IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
“...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 ESV
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

MINISTRY IMPACT

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The mission of The Gideons International

ONE VISION : STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

The enduring purpose of The Gideons International is simple, clear, and powerful:

Win others to the Lord Jesus Christ through...

» The association of Christian business and professional men for service
» Personal testimony and personal work
» Placing the Bible—God’s Holy Word, or portions thereof, in approved avenues
NEW WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH OUR VISION

The Gideons International is continually seeking fresh approaches to reach the lost that reinforce our ministry purpose. Over the past fiscal year, six unique efforts have been introduced or scheduled for the upcoming year to enhance stewardship and better meet the need for Scriptures:

1. **Enhanced Scripture Inventory Control:** Through a detailed study and inventory of our Bibles and New Testaments across the many countries where Gideons serve, we now can move Scriptures from one country to another to meet the most pressing needs for God’s Word. As a result, all orders for Scriptures sent to The Gideons International are filled in a more timely manner.

2. **Focused Giving:** In 2019, we began testing a new approach allowing donors to designate their gifts for Scriptures in selected international countries, or for international Scripture blitzes, where there is a great and sustainable need for the Word of God.

3. **Church and Member Apps:** To facilitate our relationships with local churches, and to strengthen communications between our many members, The Gideons International is leveraging the convenience of mobile apps to enhance the member experience.

4. **Personal Witnessing Training in Churches:** In our role as an “extended missionary arm” of the church, in 2020, The Gideons International will begin partnering with local congregations to help train and mobilize the people of God to fulfill the Great Commission. A team of trained Gideons will provide Personal Witnessing Training to equip church congregations.

5. **Birthday for Jesus:** This initiative offers a special opportunity for Gideons and churches to partner during the Christmas season in celebrating Christ’s birth by providing God’s Word to reach people for Christ.

6. **Enhanced School & University Scripture Distributions:** In 2019, a new action was introduced for strengthening efforts to personally share New Testaments with students. Gideons and Auxiliary (wives and widows of Gideons) now serve side-by-side in handing out God’s Word and witnessing at schools and colleges.
Striving Side by Side
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL
GOD ORCHESTRATED THE BEGINNING OF THE GIDEONS TO DEVELOP STRONG CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

Through the Lord’s guidance, The Gideons International began 120 years ago, in 1899, with the providential meeting of two Christian businessmen who shared devotions in a hotel room. John Nicholson and Samuel Hill both wanted to help other Christian businessmen fellowship with one another when traveling—and they desired to strengthen the faith and witness of these men. This prayerful goal led to what we now call The Gideons International.

Over the next three years, this Association grew to 7,000 members. Today, more than 162,000 Gideons and 94,000 Auxiliary (wives and widows of Gideons) serve side-by-side in this ministry across some 200 countries, territories, and possessions.

THROUGH FOCUSED GIDEON FELLOWSHIP, EVERY MEMBER GROWS IN HIS CHRISTIAN WALK.

When a man joins The Gideons International, he immediately becomes part of a brotherhood of like-minded Christian men. He is challenged to practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible reading, and Scripture memorization. He is also encouraged to share his testimony for Christ.

As a new member serves alongside other Gideons, he begins taking bold steps of faith, growing as a spiritual leader in his home, his work, his church, and across his community.
“AND ALL THAT BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER...”

ACTS 2:44 KJV
Dear Friend in Christ,

How do you desire to be known?

The intended future and identity of the Gideons International is to be known as a ministry that stands firm—encouraging and equipping Christian business and professional men and their wives in the pursuit of a God-sized mission of winning others to the Lord Jesus Christ. Along with the prayers and support of many churches, donors, and friends worldwide, that strong ministry is possible only as each of us walks this path by faith and lives out our vision:

“The object of The Gideons International is to win others for the Lord Jesus Christ through:

» The association of Christian business and professional men for service;

» Personal testimony and personal work by individual Gideons;

» Placing the Bible - God’s Holy Word – or portions thereof, in hotels, hospitals, schools, institutions, and also through distribution of same for personal use.”

This vision is quite unique. It says that our ministry exists to do something that none of us have the ability to fulfill in our own strength. Winning others to the Lord Jesus Christ will be accomplished through complete dependence on the Spirit of God, the grace of God, and the power of the Gospel. Scripture makes it clear: “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel.” (Philippians 1:27 ESV) If there is a group of people anywhere who should have as their highest motivation to live worthy of the Gospel, it is The Gideons International.

The message of Philippians 1:27 meshes perfectly with our vision, and you will find this powerful relationship woven throughout this Annual Report. The past year has been an exciting time in pursuing our mission. The Gideons International introduced a number of new actions, including enhanced Scripture inventory control, which has greatly increased our stewardship in providing God’s Word. We are also developing a new initiative to reach more lost people through Gideon-led personal witnessing training in churches.

Together, we must continue to trust God for open doors to share our faith and to place and distribute His Word across a morally declining world. We are members and supporters of a spiritual ministry well known as the world’s most prolific distributor of God’s Word. What an amazing privilege God has given us—and continues to offer us—in The Gideons International.

I look forward to seeing what God will accomplish through our dedication and commitment to this ministry as together we strive for the faith of the Gospel.

In Christ,

David W. Martin
International President,
The Gideons International
STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

Members Associating Together for Service to Touch More Lives for Christ
In November 2018, a team of Gideons and Auxiliary (wives and widows of Gideons) from several countries gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for a Scripture event—with the end goal being to reach people for Christ.

Pastors in the Dominican Republic have great respect for God’s Word and for the ministry of The Gideons International. When you invite a pastor to join you for a meal, it is normal to converse about what God is doing in and through the Association. Such conversations strengthen relationships between churches and Gideons. Carlos, a Gideon for ten years, emphasized how our members strive side by side with churches:

*We have a burden to build relationships, have church presentations, and explain the different aspects of the Association. The ministry needs churches—after all, we are the Church. We go to churches, recruit new members, and this helps expand Kingdom work. The more people we meet, the more we meet potential members who help fulfill the Great Commission. As a ministry, we have an incredible mission to engage a lost culture with the Gospel and God’s Word. Gideons reach people where they are, in their world, and this is what makes the ministry effective.*

Cindy, an Auxiliary, knows her calling is to complement her Gideon husband in ministry. She makes intentional effort to connect with the wife of the pastor her husband is engaging with, often giving encouragement and prayer support to her.

A significant part of The Gideons International is community engagement—especially during Scripture events. The team was able to visit not only with students and faculty at schools and universities, but also with people at hospitals, jails, hotels, and fire and police stations.

Steve Newton, a South Carolina Gideon, had impactful experiences at hospitals in the Dominican Republic. “We found the openness to the Gospel refreshing—prayers with patients and their families were welcomed. A young lady prayed to receive Christ at the first hospital we visited, and a hospital
worker prayed to receive Christ at the second hospital. We also went to a large hospital where we prayed with a family of around 10 people to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.”

Steve was moved by the warmth of the local Gideons who worked with the Scripture team. Even with a language barrier, the obvious recognition that we are all a part of the family of God made the experience together meaningful.

Lindsay Brown, a Gideon from Australia, recalled his experience at a fire station, “The local fire chief had eight officers line up and receive Testaments, along with hearing the Gospel from the ‘Australian missionary.’” Lindsay said it was a joy to see the Gospel shared through an interpreter and have the Dominican Gideons pray for them.

Capitalizing on open doors at schools and universities, the Lord provided for over 121,000 Scriptures to be received by students during the one-week event. Jimmy Fitch, a Mississippi Gideon, shared, “We were welcomed and escorted to classes by principals or their assistants. Teachers seemed glad to see Gideons, and students were attentive and graciously received Scriptures. Walking from classroom to classroom, you could see students reading their new gift.”

Howard Copeland, a Colorado Gideon, spoke with a school principal about her love for the Lord and for educating the next generation. She began to tear up, remembering her pastor asking her to teach Sunday School, “Through this, the Lord showed me the need for educators in my country.” Today, she allows religious classes to be taught in her schools and welcomes Gideons to distribute Scriptures to students and staff members.

Drew Mock, a Florida Gideon, said, “I was truly blessed by the staggering number of New Testaments we all had a hand in distributing that week (over 55,000 Scriptures at two universities). I thought about the untold number of lives that will be eternally impacted by those thousands and thousands of Scriptures going home to friends and families.”

Praise the Lord for memorable Kingdom work accomplished in Santo Domingo. “Working with such a committed group of local Gideons and Auxiliary, seeing their boldness in presenting God’s Word, and sharing about Jesus, made for an impactful experience,” says Drew Mock.

Read the complete story in “Kingdom Work in the Dominican Republic” at gideons.org/blog
The Gideons International:
A TIMELINE OF STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

1898  John Nicholson and Samuel Hill pray about the need for Christian businessmen to fellowship together in strengthening their faith and sharing their witness while traveling.

1899  Seeking God’s will for their new association, Nicholson, Hill, and W.J. Knights feel led by the Lord to choose a name: The Gideons.

1908  Gideons share with a ministerial union their desire to place God’s Word in hotels across the USA. The pastors of this union vote to support The Gideons in their new effort.

1916  Gideons initiate the first Bible placements in hospitals.

1934  Auxiliary (wives and widows of Gideons) provide Bibles to women’s homes, hospitals, and Y.W.C.A.’s.

1941  Through God’s perfect timing, Gideons share New Testaments with USA military—just prior to WWII. Auxiliary distribute the first New Testaments to service nurses, as well.

1946  Gideons begin offering New Testaments to school students in the 5th - 12th grades.

1968  Gideon Service Testaments circle the moon with the USA astronauts of Apollo 8 who broadcast reading the Genesis creation account.

1971  The 100 millionth Scripture is placed by Gideons.
1972 For the first time, Gideons personally share New Testaments on college campuses.

1978 The 200 millionth Scripture is ordered for Gideon placement or distribution.

1989 The Iron Curtain is opened to Gideon ministry—in Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia.

2001 The 1 billionth Gideon Scripture is provided...after 90+ years of sharing the Word.

2015 Through God alone, the second billion Gideon Scriptures are distributed in less than 15 years.

2017 Through their own individual witnessing efforts, Gideons and Auxiliary provide the 100 millionth Personal Workers Testament. These special Testaments were all purchased by members of this Association for use in personally sharing their faith.

2018-19 FISCAL YEAR

In September and October 2018, more than 129,000 people received a New Testament during Scripture events in the Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Poland.

Following late 2018 earthquakes in Indonesia and Haiti, which claimed over 1,200 lives, nearly 120,000 Scriptures were provided through The Gideons International to share hope with those affected.

December 2018 marked the first ever shipment of Tatar language Scriptures delivered to Russia from The Gideons International. More than 5.3 million people in Russia speak Tatar.

2019 began a new approach to allow donors to designate their gifts for Scriptures in selected international countries, or for international Scripture blitzes, where there is a great and sustainable need for the Word of God.
“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”  
ROMANS 10:17 ESV
Standing Firm
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL
MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION RECEIVE UNIQUE BLESSINGS THROUGH PERSONAL WITNESSING.

Each Gideon and each Auxiliary experiences the rich rewards of serving together, regularly sharing God’s Word, and personally witnessing to the lost. All members stand firm in their desire to share their faith at God-appointed opportunities.

While we give many New Testaments to people during planned Scripture distributions in high-traffic locations, such as schools and colleges, Gideons and Auxiliary also share Testaments one-on-one with those they meet in their daily lives. Often these encounters include a personal word of witness to a man, woman, or child who may not know Jesus Christ as Savior.

CHURCHES AND THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL—STANDING FIRM TOGETHER.

The Gideons International has always served as an extension of the evangelical Church. In fact, it was a pastor in 1908 who first recommended churches support Gideons in providing Scriptures.

Christ’s Church is The Gideon ministry’s key source of gaining new members. The Church also offers us a continuous blanket of prayer, and it serves as a significant means of financial support. Before a man becomes a Gideon, his pastor must first endorse him. In turn, Gideons, in their personal testimony and personal work, strive to lead others to Christ and direct them to a local church so they can be discipled as new Christians.
STANDING FIRM IN TAIWAN
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL
3 Powerful Examples of Personal Testimony and Personal Work
DAVID CHEN

David Chen picked up a Scripture in his darkest hour and discovered the life-saving light of Jesus Christ. Heavy substance abuse and a criminal conviction of drug trafficking left him in a narrow cell, where his three-year sentence began, slowly. As his body began to withdraw from drugs, David knew he would have to keep his mind occupied to make it. He determined to read and re-write the words of a book he found in his cell. “I began handwriting about 500 words per day. Over time, the words began to speak to me—words like ‘...If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’” (John 8:31-32).

David remained faithful to reading and handwriting the words in that Bible, and he surrendered his life to the Lord. “I remember kneeling on my cell floor, asking God to help me never find myself in prison again.” Six months later, David was released on probation for good behavior.

David kept up his habit of writing 500 words a day from Scripture. He began regularly attending church and asked God to bring him a new job. Today, David owns a successful solar energy company.

David came to know about The Gideons International after prison. “I had such a passion for spreading the Good News; I wanted to share what had happened to me with everyone,” he says. One day, while visiting a hospital to leave some pamphlets about the Gospel, he was approached by a Gideon there placing Bibles. The two realized their hearts were aligned. The Gideon suggested David become a Gideon himself, as Gideons could provide him the skills and tools to best carry out the calling God had placed on his life. David couldn’t wait to join.

“I’ve been a Gideon for fifteen years now,” David says, “And I’ve learned a lot from others in this ministry—like how to be brave enough to approach a stranger to share the Gospel. He even keeps New Testaments in his office to share with clients as the Lord provides opportunities. “Being a Gideon equips me to step outside of my comfort zone and share the Gospel with non-believers.”

BEING A GIDEON EQUIPS ME TO STEP OUTSIDE OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH NON-BELIEVERS.
- DAVID CHEN
David Chen is just one of 1,637 Gideons living in Taiwan. Members like An-Ji Cheng, and his wife Tai Ying Cheng, have been dedicated to the ministry over 28 years. “We joined The Gideons because we know as Christians, it is our duty to fulfill the Great Commission,” says Tai Ying. “When we joined, we didn’t know how to go about sharing the Gospel with strangers. Within the ministry, we pray for each other and we see how God works through all of us. The opportunity to grow with one another has encouraged us even more to share our faith.”

Tai Ying and her husband know sharing the Good News is not always carried out as a literal hand extending the Word of God to another. Often, a relationship of trust must be built to lay the groundwork. Since An-Ji and Tai Ying own a lighting shop that has been active for generations, the family name is well known. They build relationships with customers that allow them to openly share their faith in natural conversations. As the Bible says, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4)

Every year, Gideons in Taiwan boldly step out in faith to distribute God’s Word at the Taiwan Lantern Festival, which may have some 10 million attendees. Gideon Shang-Xian Tsai participated in Scripture distribution at the festival in 2019. “This is the best thing a Gideon could wish for,” he says. We believe God will give open doors here...I hope one day all the people on this island will be God’s people, and they will praise His name on Earth. We offer the New Testament to others knowing this Book will help them understand the Savior. Although most people will reject us, we know one or two of them may take a Scripture and come to know Jesus Christ. This is what brings us joy.”

Read these three complete stories in “Sharing Hope: Ministry in Taiwan” at gideons.org/blog.
“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”

PSALM 12:6  KJV
“...STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH...”
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13 ESV
Dear Christian Friend,

In Acts 6:4, the disciples stated that, as leaders, they would devote themselves, “to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” As I began my journey as executive director last year, my commitment to our staff, and to you—our members, donors, and friends—was that we would make that same choice the disciples made. We, the men and women of International Headquarters, would maintain our commitment of being devoted to prayer and to remaining in the Word.

The relevance of The Gideons International may never have been greater. Together, in one spirit, with one mind, we strive side by side with the Church as a counterbalance to the world’s culture.

Our worldwide membership now totals 257,123 members, Gideons and Auxiliary. We also achieved a key milestone this past year, surpassing 2.3 billion Scriptures placed and distributed since this ministry began. Praise God for His faithfulness…and for the doors He continues to open.

Early last year, a process was begun to account for available Scriptures around the world. The result enabled an estimated 12.8 Scriptures to be distributed from existing inventory, bringing our worldwide total Scriptures shipped and distributed to 81 million. International Outreach leadership were then challenged to hold “in-country” Scripture-distribution blitzes that can be scheduled and executed quickly.

Ethiopia had never previously conducted an in-country blitz. Available Scriptures were identified that could be used for this event. Members placed and distributed Scriptures into the hands of 46,000 people—reaching 35 high schools, 3 colleges, 200 hotels, 2 hospitals, 1 police station, and 1 prison. At that prison, one member shared his personal testimony, and 141 of the inmates accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Praise God for the lives He is touching through the faithfulness of our members in Ethiopia.

Also this past year, we introduced new resources for camp leaders to use in any English-speaking country, which will enhance the overall member and camp experience. We are now working to offer these valuable resources to many more camps around the world—in their languages. To further modernize and revitalize the member experience, we just launched the new mobile app for members, TGI-Member. Currently available in four languages, the app will become a foundation for future interactions with our members.

To reach many churches where doors have been closing to us, significant effort has gone into delivering a new church relations campaign for USA use. This campaign offers us the opportunity to strive side-by-side with churches who follow a more contemporary worship style.

Since becoming executive director, God has greatly used Proverbs 3:5-6 to speak into my life:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

My promise to you is that these verses will be a guide for us. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

In Christ,

Dan Heighway
Executive Director
“You are my witnesses,’ declares the LORD...”

ISAIAH 43:10 ESV
One Spirit, One Mind

FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL
OUR LORD CONTINUES TO BLESS THE GIDEONS IN SHARING HIS WORD AND HIS LOVE.

Since prayerfully seeking God’s will in providing hotel Bibles back in 1908, The Gideons International has built a powerful worldwide reputation for distributing the Gospel. These Scripture placements now include prisons, hospitals, military facilities, and of course, hotels and motels. New Testaments, including Psalms and Proverbs, are also handed out during planned distributions at schools, colleges, and many more high-traffic venues.

All Testaments shared by Gideons include a unique Help in Time of Need section at the front. Anyone receiving one of these Scriptures can use this section to easily find verses to assist with specific life issues, such as being afraid, discouraged, lonely, and more. At the back of each Testament is a clear and simple presentation of God’s plan of salvation—along with a place to sign and date a decision made for Christ. Our members seek to share these Scriptures as they personally witness to family, friends, and others they meet.

THROUGH GOD’S BLESSING, THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE, MOST COMPREHENSIVE, AND MOST INTEGRATED BIBLE DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

Over two billion Scriptures have been placed and distributed through the partnership between The Gideons International and evangelical churches. These Scripture placements remain a vital part of the ministry, as each year we share millions of Bibles and pocket-sized Testaments worldwide. All are provided at no charge to those facilities and individuals receiving them—through the generous donations of our members and other Christian donors.
Thank you for making Bibles available in hotel rooms. I work for an airline, so I travel often. When I become discouraged or worn down, the light at the end of the tunnel is the Word of God in the drawer of nearly every hotel I’m in. You don’t know how much it means to me to read a printed copy of the Bible!

—Clint Webb

How well I remember your visits and the red New Testaments you passed out to my class. I sincerely believe that Testament helped keep me on the road to Jesus Christ. I wish you a steady stream of open doors leading to open hearts. I will be looking for you in that Homeland with Jesus and all the others whose fruit blossomed because of you. Thank you for the years of caring about people like me.

—Shirley

I was looking at my pocket Bible. It was my dad’s, and I kept it after he passed away. The dates on the inside cover include the day my dad gave himself to Christ and the day I did the same. I thought I would just say thanks for what you do. I’m sure you already know, but it doesn’t go unnoticed.

—Clint Webb

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION
For the Faith of the Gospel
I really want to thank you for your dedication toward distributing Scriptures across the world. I was born and raised in South India. During sixth grade, I received a New Testament from a Gideon. It was very useful for me and my Hindu friends. One of them told me that after six years of reading God’s Word, she came to accept Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.

—Icy Abraham, student at Nicholls St. Univ, New Orleans

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...”

PHILIPPIANS 1:3 ESV

People who knew me before I was saved cannot believe how my life has changed. The guards at the Mesa County Jail can give testimony—but only one person gets the glory, and His name is Jesus Christ. I thank all Gideons for their obedience to their calling. Without them, I would not have heard the words of Jesus!

—Christopher Gallegos

One afternoon as I was leaving the university, a man offered me a New Testament. I dedicated myself to analyzing the Gospel in order to attack the religion and its basis. As the days and weeks passed, I felt, without admitting it, that God was speaking through the Scriptures. I was going to hell, and He saved me. I thank God for His forgiveness and for having used The Gideons to provide to me that Scripture that led me to understand salvation offered through His Word.
IN ONE SPIRIT WITH ONE MIND
FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

A Single Copy of God’s Word Impacts Hundreds of Lives
Testimony of Pastor Todd Keough
A round age 18, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I worked as a beach lifeguard in California. A homeless man named Walter frequented the beaches, and I looked after him, as much as he looked after me.

My family was preparing to move up the coast, and the day we were leaving, Walter found me. He told me the Holy Spirit had moved in his heart, and he was saved at a revival. He had met a few men who gave him two New Testaments. They told him one was for keeping and the other was to share with a friend. He handed me an orange Testament. I took it; however, I put the book in a box and forgot about it.

After moving north, I became a Christian schoolteacher and youth pastor. Although busy with the things of God, a slow lull began to creep into my spiritual life. I was not growing in my faith and did not feel close to God. A good friend suggested I combine my passion for running with a commitment to grow closer to God. He said, “Why don’t you find a place where you feel like you can actually run towards God?”

I started running up the hills in northern California. One specific spot really challenged me because the hill escalated about three miles. I decided to start having a quiet time at the top of the hill to study my Bible. Thinking about the extra weight of a Bible, I almost gave up the idea. Then, I remembered the small orange Testament Walter had given me.

For two and a half years, I ran that hill and studied my Testament. I actually dug a small hole under a tree at the top where I kept the Scripture in a plastic bag. Each time I ran, my secret spot was waiting, and I sat under that tree and let God’s Word speak to me.

I wrote anything and everything in those margins—from personal prayers to revelations God had provided through my study of His Word.

When I found out I was having a child, I recorded that praise. I also wrote, “If ever found, please return to Pastor Todd Keough.”

God then led my family to Sacramento. Before leaving, I had one last chance to run
that hill and collect my Testament. As I came to my special spot, I noticed a freshly dug hole. Someone had stolen my Testament—my journal was gone.

About ten years later, I received a phone call from a man named Hector. He said, “Is this Pastor Todd Keough? I found your Bible.” I responded hesitantly, “I have my Bible right here.” Hector continued, “No, it’s a little orange one.” I asked how he got it. Hector shared the journey of my orange Testament.

“My father received this from his cellmate in Vacaville State Prison. His cellmate read all these little highlighted things in the margins. He witnessed to my father, and my father gave his life to Christ. When his cellmate was released, my father started a prison Bible study using your Testament. Hundreds of men came to know Christ.”

“My dad gave me the Testament when he left jail. I read it and also became a Christian. So, you can have your Testament back now. And, I want to encourage you...God can use your words, and His Word, even after much time has passed.” “You need to keep it,” I told Hector.

“I’m not ready to have it back yet. Maybe God will use it again in someone’s life.” I carried that encouragement the next three years before receiving another call.

“Is this Pastor Todd Keough?” a voice asked. The man was from Huntington Beach, California, and now he had my orange New Testament. “There are five different names on the inside cover,” he said, “I have some questions for you.” He asked about God and whether following after Him was really worth it. He read aloud my own thoughts written years ago in the margins. “Did you say that God’s Word is a sword that can pierce a man’s heart?” “I did say that,” I replied.

The man continued to more personal notes in the margins. “Do you have a son named Nicholas?” When I answered yes, he asked how old my son was. “He is 21,” I said. The man was amazed, “Wow! I’ve been praying for him.” I asked if he had ever heard of The Gideons. He shared he noticed the logo on the front cover of the Testament and had asked around to see if anyone knew Mr. Gideon. Eventually, he found himself filling out an application to become a Gideon and was now able to pass out God’s Word at local high schools.

God is using the ministry of Gideons and Auxiliary. Those days I cried over that little Scripture on the hill — filling its pages with my fears and anxiety about life — I had no idea what God had in store!

Editor’s Note: We are thankful to God for Todd’s testimony and how God continues to use him to reach others for Christ. Todd currently serves as a full-time Bible teacher at Tabernacle Christian School and as a youth pastor at Valley Christian Church in Concord, California.

Read the complete story in “Testimony: Todd Keough” at gideons.org/blog.
“...be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 KJV
SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WORLDWIDE

Since mid-2018, The Gideons International has been carefully identifying those countries with ongoing Scripture needs—and other countries where existing Scripture inventories might be reallocated. Through this meticulous process, God’s Word is now more quickly and effectively getting to people in those countries with the greatest demand.

Last year, Gideons and Auxiliary placed and distributed over 81 million copies of God’s Word. Of this total, 12.8 million were reallocated through enhanced stewardship of our inventory.

Ever since, every order for Scriptures received at the headquarters of The Gideons International has been filled in a more timely manner. Nevertheless, there remains an urgent need to share God’s Word across the world. Your ongoing donations make the difference in meeting all Scripture requests.

This past year, well over 2 million Scriptures were shared through 15 regionally focused “Scripture Blitzes.” Gideons personally handed many men, women, and children God’s Word, while other copies were shared with chaplains and at institutions to touch multiple lives.

INTERNATIONAL SCRIPTURE BLITZES: JUNE 2018 – MAY 2019

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<td>Poland</td>
<td>29,088</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>160,899</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>131,064</td>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>40,036</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>134,622</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 2,382,774
More than 73% of the Scriptures Gideons share internationally each year are personally handed to students in schools and colleges.

In addition to these targeted Scripture distributions, through the Gideon Bible App, God’s Word is now available digitally in over 1,300 languages. This unique app offers mobile access to Scripture, including the plan of salvation, plus text and dramatized audio Bibles. Since it was released in September 2015, there have been almost 200,000 downloads. gideons.bible.is

Scriptures shared in a region are highlighted in colored circles.
The numbers of members serving are indicated below each regional title.
Across the United States, Gideons and Auxiliary shared 9.3 million Bibles and Testaments this past fiscal year. When possible, our members faithfully seek to witness as they personally hand New Testaments to men, women, and youth.

**MAJOR USA SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION CATEGORIES:**
June 2018 – May 2019

- Youth: 3,274,550
- College: 1,488,600
- Hospital & Medical: 1,149,245
- Hotels: 647,136
- Personal Witnessing: 1,122,938
- Service: 501,050
- Other Facilities (incl. prisons and correctional facilities): 1,133,552
- TOTAL: 9,317,071
Youth receive the largest share of USA Gideon-placed Scriptures. In addition, Gideons work through local church youth ministries to provide The Life Book, for free, to high school students. The Life Book includes two options, the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Mark, in a format that appeals to today’s teens. Church youth then share those Life Books they receive, peer-to-peer, with fellow students who need to know the Lord as Savior.

Gideons are perhaps best known for placing Bibles in hotels across the United States, and this work is still a vital part of the ministry. Travelers frequently receive comfort—and have their faith strengthened—by reading a Bible in their hotel room. Each USA hotel-placed Bible has the potential to impact up to 2,300 guests in a single hotel or motel room.

Gideons regularly visit and provide Service New Testaments at USA Military Entrance & Processing Stations (MEPS) for our young men and women, just before they are deployed for service.

Every year across the USA, The Gideons International also holds focused Scripture distributions in metropolitan areas, called “Scripture Blitzes.” Millions of Scriptures are shared at these blitzes, often with a personal witness to those who need to know the Lord as their Savior.
“SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOETH FORTH OUT OF MY MOUTH: IT SHALL NOT RETURN UNTO ME VOID...”

ISAIAH 55:11 KJV
Dear Christian Friend,

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

We thank God for His provisions each and every year. In 2018-19, God enabled us to fill every order requested for the faith of the Gospel through generous members and donors. While 68.2 million Scriptures were purchased and shared, an additional 12.8 million Scriptures were placed using existing Scripture inventories. This stewardship effort brought our worldwide total to 81 million copies of God’s Word shipped and distributed.

Beyond this, over 5.1 million copies of The Life Book (Books of John and Mark) were purchased and placed, as well as 190,000 Scriptures in the People’s Republic of China. To God be the glory!

Donations for the USA GideonCard Bible Program (Christian greeting cards to provide Scriptures) totaled $15.5 million—funding 12.9 million copies of God’s Word. We are also thankful to God for International Outreach Ministry (IOM) Faith Fund receipts of nearly $37.4 million. Our membership and supporters provide these financial resources to meet the spiritual needs of others. USA Auxiliary (wives of Gideons) Scripture receipts were over $2.2 million.

The Lord has richly blessed our Association’s efforts to reduce Scripture printing costs through our negotiations with worldwide vendors. Today, our average cost of getting a copy of God’s Word in someone’s hands, across the world, is now $1.20—and this includes all additional costs, such as shipping, royalties, warehousing, customs, etc.

Development activity continues to be an important source of funds as Gideons, Auxiliary, and other donors and friends make provision for future gifts to this ministry. Legacy bequests, supporting the free distribution of God’s Word, totaled $11.6 million, an increase of 40.3% over the previous year.

Year after year, our International Headquarters staff manages and maintains administrative costs within budget and below non-profit averages, which is deeply appreciated as we seek to devote more to sharing God’s Word.

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your international treasurer these last three years. We serve an awesome God. I do not know of another time in my life where I have seen Him move more, both personally and within the ministry, than I have seen in these last few years. I am humbled and thankful for His grace and mercy during this time.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

In Christ,

Kevin Beal
International Treasurer

Asish K. Pradhan
Chief Financial Officer
FINANCIAL RESULTS


This marks the eighth straight year that God has blessed this ministry to provide more than 80 million Bibles and New Testaments. To get a clearer picture of the numbers, Gideons and Auxiliary distribute more than two copies of God’s Word every second of every day. To God be the glory!

While God continues to bless this ministry, so many in the world still need His Word and His love in their lives. Please prayerfully consider how you might do more to share Scriptures. Perhaps you will want to leave a legacy gift as a TorchBearer of The Gideons International. See page 50 of this Annual Report to learn about numerous ways you can support this valuable ministry...for the faith of the Gospel.

For more detailed financial information, go to: gideons.org/financials

The Gideons International is committed to trustworthy and faithful stewardship of all donations given to the Association.
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### For the year ended May 31, 2019

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Support</td>
<td>$13,785,601</td>
<td>$13,785,601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,105</td>
<td>$10,105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scriptures</td>
<td>$61,641,735</td>
<td>$18,649,276</td>
<td>$80,291,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA Used at State &amp; Local Level*</td>
<td>$8,788,504</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8,788,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Contributions</td>
<td>$9,619,913</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,619,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues Income</td>
<td>$5,566,528</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,566,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$423,255</td>
<td>$39,821</td>
<td>$463,076</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchandise Sales</td>
<td>$1,998,383</td>
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<td>$1,998,383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$196,405</td>
<td></td>
<td>$196,405</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of purpose restrictions</td>
<td>$405,452</td>
<td></td>
<td>($405,452)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>$102,425,776</td>
<td>$18,293,750</td>
<td>$120,719,526</td>
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</table>

*NOTE: State & Local Level Income & Expenses are included in Revenues, as well as Expenses of the Association. [Funded from personal donations by individual members.]*

EXCERPT FROM 2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, GO TO: gideons.org/financials
OPERATING EXPENSES
2018-2019

*NOTE: State & Camp level Income & Expenses are included in Revenues, as well as Expenses of the Association. [Funded from personal donations by individual members.]

- **SCRIPTURE PURCHASES & DISTRIBUTION**: $72,244,183
- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT**: $11,527,503
- **STATE & LOCAL LEVEL***: $10,145,156
- **MANAGEMENT & GENERAL**: $3,717,472
- **FUNDRAISING**: $3,095,431

72% 11% 10% 4% 3%
"That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate..."

TIMOTHY 6:18 KJV
In many of the some 200 countries, territories, and possessions where The Gideons International is organized, people may never own, or even see, God’s Word unless it is given to them for free.

As you read this Annual Report, The Gideons International is responding to requests for millions of Bibles and New Testaments from numerous countries. These requests are filled and Scriptures are printed and shipped out as soon as donations are received.

Share your faith by providing God’s Word through The Gideons International. Your financial gifts will help print and send Bibles and New Testaments around the world.

Support the distribution of God’s Word as you prefer:

» Gideon Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder or Lead Trusts: Touch more hearts and lives…and receive a lifetime income.

» Non-cash gifts—Real Estate, Stock, Used Vehicles, IRA distributions, and Life Insurance Policy.

» Consider “Legacy Planning:” Name The Gideons International as a beneficiary of your will, trust, or financial account.

» Donor-Advised Funds (DAF): Enhance supporting your beloved charities by opening a Gideon DAF, or let The Gideons accept your current DAF donations.

Also:

» FaithfulGiving: Give God’s Word automatically every month from your bank account or credit card.


» AmazonSmile: Provide Bibles and New Testaments when shopping online—at no additional cost to you.

BECOME A TORCHBEARER. As a TorchBearers, you can leave a meaningful legacy of reaching the lost by including The Gideons International in your estate plan. Help men, women, and children receive God’s Word through your will, trust, and beneficiary designations.

SEND A GIDEONCARD “IN MEMORY” OR “IN HONOR” OF A SPECIAL PERSON. Choose a touching Christian greeting card that enables you to donate for Bibles while recognizing or remembering someone special to you. GideonCards are available through: SendTheWord.org.

Give anytime to share God’s Word: gideons.org/gift

Or, contact our Development Division to make a donation for sharing the Gospel. Members of our Development Team are ready to assist you in fulfilling your stewardship goals. If you have questions on donating to send Bibles and New Testaments, let us know. Our personal services are always complimentary to you.

PHONE: 615-564-5277 (M – F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Time)

EMAIL: development@gideons.org

WEBSITE: gideonslegacy.org

MAIL: The Gideons International
P.O. Box 140800
Nashville, TN 37214-0800

GIVING GENEROUSLY for the Faith of the Gospel
LEADERSHIP OF THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL
For the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS
President: Allen J. Huth
Vice President: Kevin Beal
Treasurer: Kevin Keck
Chaplain: Mark D. Johnson
Secretary: Dan Heighway

Parker, CO
Hartselle, AL
Sevierville, TN
Fountain Hills, AZ
Mount Juliet, TN

INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEES
Australia: Trevor Monson
Finland: Pertti Tamminen
Germany: Manfred Wiegel
Japan: Seiji Ogata
Korea: Ei Jae Sung
Norway: Kaare Nordpoll
Republic of China (Taiwan): Dr. James C.H. Chen
South Africa: André du Plessis
USA Zone 1: Mark McNett
USA Zone 2: Dr. Richard Nicolai
USA Zone 3: Sam Shoquist
USA Zone 4: Rusty Jamison
USA Zone 5: Bob Drinkall
USA Zone 6: Joseph Nowlin
USA Zone 7: Bob Hubler
USA Zone 8: Randy Crowe
USA Zone 9: Bruce Patterson
USA Zone 10: Steve Smith
USA Zone 11: Steven Spurr
USA Zone 12: T. Lloyd Crum

INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY OFFICERS
President: Cindy Davis
Vice President: Lynne Peterson
Chaplain: Betty Dyson
Secretary: Mary Lou Ray

Warrensville, NC
San Jose, CA
Orangeburg, SC
Lawrenceburg, KY
“...continue in the faith...”

ACTS 14:22 ESV