

word@work NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friend:

Welcome to the latest Word@Work. As we start a new year, I'm reminded of how the pages of the Bible can dramatically transform cultures, communities and individual lives. In fact, during these past 12 months more people were impacted by the translation, publishing and distribution efforts of our dedicated Canadian Bible Society staff than I can ever remember happened previously.

We're thrilled that CBS has become a recognized global leader in electronic Bible distribution. Did you know that every 1.5 seconds a Bible is downloaded for the first time and every second someone highlights a verse and then shares it with a friend or posts it on a social network? To ensure that Scriptures are available through the latest cutting-edge tools, a new Bible app is now free for mobile users through a partnership between CBS and Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH). By working with ministries like FCBH we are able to cost-effectively multiply our outreach in various and unique ways.

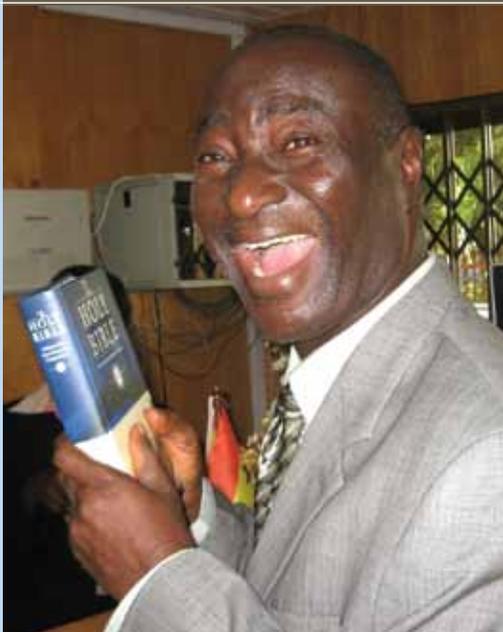
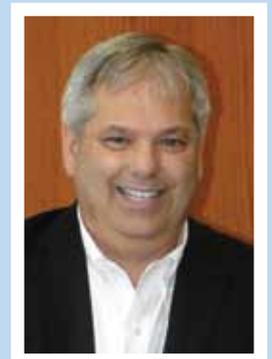
Government officials are not immune to the gentle persuasion of the Holy Spirit. In an effort to share the Good News with a group of Canadian leaders, members of the House at the British Columbia Legislative Assembly were each given copies of the world's best-selling book. During the presentation, I was able to share that Canada was founded on biblical principles and, as a result, we have been blessed to become an increasingly important player on the world stage. It's the prayer of everyone at CBS that God's truth will dramatically transform the hearts and minds of our leaders.

34 years in the making! We rejoice in declaring that this summer, in Iqaluit, Nunavut territory, the Inuit people finally received what they had eagerly waited for ... The Inuktitut Bible – an entire translation in their own tongue. Inuktitut, the language of Inuit people, is the most widely spoken aboriginal dialect in Canada's Arctic. As Hart Wiens, our director of Scripture translation, shared at the happy dedication, "Every time I visit the Arctic, people ask me, 'When will we have the complete Bible?' Now their question can finally be answered – today is the day".

Of course, the "race" we at CBS are privileged to run is made possible by the generosity and sacrificial giving of people like you. On behalf of our field workers, translators, teachers and office staff we thank you so very much for all you've done. May the Lord richly bless you this year.



Your friend and servant,
REV. TED SERES
National Director



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biblesociety.ca

Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.



Life changing... Your gift of the Bible

“When I was a stranger,
you welcomed me”

Matthew 25:35c (CEV)

Around the world and here at home, every day, people encounter the power of God's Word. That's because they receive Bibles through your generous support. God's Word offers comfort and hope in times of crisis, guidance for everyday living and help to find the source of Life, Jesus Christ.

For more than a century CBS, along with 146 national Bible Societies, has worked prayerfully and diligently to bring God's Word to every man, woman and child. Yet, today, countless people still wait to receive a copy of the Scriptures in their heart language. Through the *Bible a Month* program, your gift of \$12 every four weeks will dramatically impact lives around the world. We'd like to share a few of these stories...



Israel: Israel is home to thousands of refugee families and migrant workers. Facing discrimination and neglect they need essential supplies along with

encouragement and guidance. With support from CBS, the Bible Society in Israel works with local churches to provide Bibles and other Scripture resources – including New Testaments in six languages and Bible story books – to offer the message of hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.



Rwanda: In Rwanda a third of young people between the ages of 16 and 25 have been severely traumatized due to living in a violent war zone. Recognizing the

massive scope of this human disaster, and the specific needs of women who were particularly brutalized, the Canadian, Rwandan and American Bible Societies have teamed up to create *She's My Sister*. This Scripture-based program offers these precious women compassion and restoration.

Canada: God's Word should be accessible to everyone, including those incarcerated in prisons across Canada. This is why the *Key to Freedom Bible* was created and developed with the assistance of prisoners and chaplains. Designed for all reading levels and featuring easy-to-follow study helps, the *Key to Freedom Bible* shares Christ's forgiveness, hope and love with prisoners and their families.

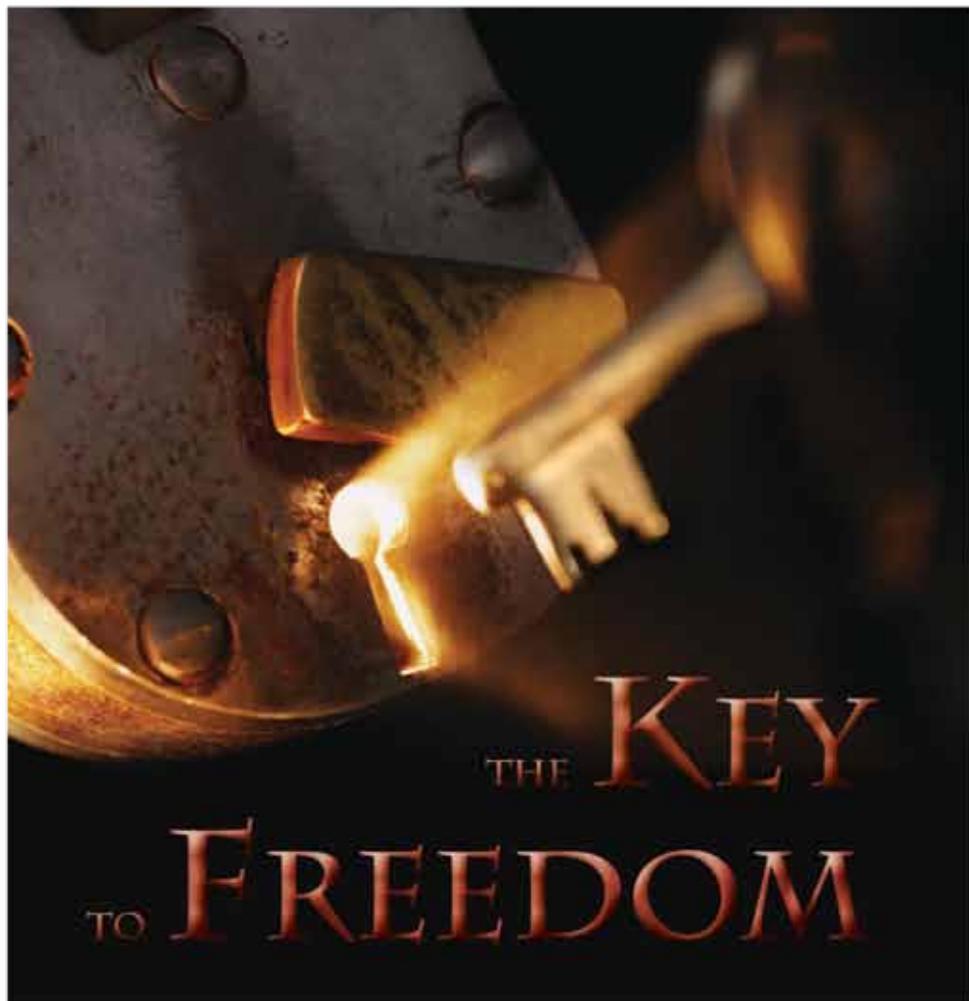
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Phone: Toll free
1-800-465-2425



Please scan QR code to get more information on the *Bible a Month*



Your Stories: Wisdom, Inspiration & Blessings from Our Wonderful Donors

It's a simple fact. You're the reason we're able to bring God's Word to people around the world in their heart languages. You and thousands like you. We can't thank you enough . . . and we love to hear from you. Your cards. Your emails. Your calls. They give us a glimpse into your lives and we're grateful when we can rejoice with you, pray with you, listen to your counsel and consider your ideas. Here are a few notes we've received in the past few months we'd like to share.



God's Word Preserves Body and Soul

My maternal grandfather was a soldier with the Gordon Highlanders (a Scottish Regiment) in the Second Boer War (1899-1902). In his day, every soldier was given a New Testament by Queen Victoria. Grandpa kept his in the left chest pocket of his uniform. My grandfather's Division was often under intense fire. On one occasion he saw that his general was wounded so he pulled him to a safe area. It wasn't until later Grandpa discovered that a bullet had grazed the New Testament in his pocket during his heroic rescue. Only God knows what type of injury he would have sustained if he hadn't kept his Bible with him at all times. My grandfather treasured his Bible and carefully preserved it his entire life. More importantly, though, the Word of God was written on his heart. Despite his physical bravery, he was a member of the Lord's Army first and foremost.

Paul.B



Sharing The Word. For Life.

My wife and I recently entertained sixteen Sea Cadets and four officers at our home in Bermuda during their ten day cultural visit. We had a wonderful meal together and a very lively conversation. We were especially interested in discovering where they were from, how far they had advanced in school and their short and long-term plans for the future. Toward the end of the evening we offered our visitors a New Testament and Psalms. Each one happily accepted. To our surprise, the cadets and officers immediately began to read their Bibles and asked questions about finding certain passages they knew. Some even asked for extra copies to give away. This was a marvelous opportunity to share the Word of Life with a group of vibrant young people.

Erskine. S



Giving Her All

We sometimes receive emails and letters that immediately brighten our day and lift our spirits. Recently one of our precious and faithful donors wrote to say, "I can only send you seven dollars but it comes from my heart. I pray that those with greater means will provide enough financial support so you can reach out to the many people waiting to receive a Bible of their own. What a joy! Until then I would like to thank the Reverend Ted Seres for his kind note. Keep up the good work!"

A faithful donor



Shameless Bible Reader – Facebook Page update

Shameless Bible Reader is a page created on Facebook bearing Roman 1:16 in mind.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."

The "Open the Bible; Open Your Mind" Shameless Bible Reader campaign is a highly focused initiative based on the conviction that lives are dramatically changed by the transforming message of the Bible. We recently received this thank you note from one of our 4,000 readers.

"It's real amazing how you guys from shameless bible reader's select scriptures you are such a blessing keep up doing this you will be amazed that my life is shifted and aligned to the wells of life. Thank you very much. I love you."

M2M . . . PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXPAND OUR GLOBAL OUTREACH

If you work in either sales or marketing then you're probably familiar with the designations B2B (business-to-business), B2C (business-to-consumer) and B2G (business-to-government). These acronyms refer to the types of relationships and transactions that exist between a corporation and its partners and clients. At CBS we strive to build and maintain long-lasting M2M partnerships. That's right – ministry-to-ministry.

As Bible experts, we know the calling God has placed on our lives. He gave us very specific skills – namely translating, publishing and encouraging engagement with His Word. Our distribution “teams” are other Christian agencies; especially churches which, collectively, are the single largest group we both rely upon and support.

We'd like to share a few exciting relationships God has brought to us in the past few months.

CBS and the Georgian Native & Outreach Ministries bring God's Word to First Nations Children

The Smoky Trail Bible Camps ... sound like fun, don't they? Well, they are! Just ask the First Nations kids who attend one of these exciting camps in Hanover, Parry Sound or Kirkland Lake, Ontario. But each camp is designed to be more than a place to create lasting memories of campfires and canoeing and crafts. You know, all the things that make for a great summer camp experience. Their mission is to share the love of Jesus with First Nations children and teens. This year CBS provided 300 Youth Bibles and 200 New Testaments to these precious young people

YWAM Hockey... Cold Steel and Warm Hearts



“Tired, sore, exhausted, happy, excited... couldn't wait to get back here”. That's how one mother described her son's emotions at the 2012 YWAM Hockey Camp in Homer, Alaska. This year seven camps, each lasting five weeks, were held in Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta and (yes) Harbin, China. At every camp, YWAM Hockey Bibles were given to the eager young players. The spiritual impact was visibly apparent. “It was so cool to see kids and adult hockey players reading their Bibles in the dressing rooms and then putting the Bibles into their equipment bags,” said Glen Bueckert, director and head coach of YWAM Hockey.

In fact, as the mother of the “tired” but “happy” boy explained, “Tommy came home and showed me the Bible you guys gave him. He was really excited. He started asking me questions and wanted to talk about it”. YWAM is now helping Tommy and his mother understand what they're reading. And, they arranged a visit to a nearby church. Please pray that this spark will kindle a spiritual fire in their hearts – and the hearts of others who have been impacted by this unique Bible-based ministry.

The Pack. For Life. – Sharing God's love with our nation's most vulnerable

What does every kid need to carry their books and supplies to school? That's

right... backpacks. But for lower income families, who spend the majority of their meager resources on basic necessities, little is available for other needs – and that often includes backpacks. This is why, for the last few years, the Salvation Army has been providing brightly coloured packs, each filled with essential school supplies, to financially struggling families in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. In fact, through various partnerships, they are now supplying packs to 5,000 kids throughout the province.



Of course the moral and spiritual foundation every child needs can only be found in the pages of Scripture. To

ensure that God's Words of Life are freely available, the Canadian Bible Society is committed to providing \$20,000 worth of Bibles to be included in each backpack. As one mother shared, “My son, Kevin, started going to Salvation Army holiday camps when he was six. He always looked forward to the backpack he would receive that included not only school supplies but also a Bible”. Kevin and his mother began attending church and have accepted Christ into their lives.



So how does the program work? Well, it's simple! The Salvation Army and CBS are partnering with Christian schools by asking students to launch

fundraising efforts that will provide kids in their local communities copies of the Bible.

For more information, please call 800-465-2425 or visit www.biblesociety.ca/pack4life.



Bible distribution grows by 11% in 2011!

If you live in the West you might think the Church is in decline, but more printed Bibles were distributed by United Bible Societies last year than ever before. 32.1 million Bibles were distributed across the world in 2011 – an increase of 11.2% over 2010.



The Canadian Bible Society, along with 146 national Bible Societies around the world, has been working diligently to bring the Bible to every man, woman and child since 1904. And yet it's hard to believe that there are thousands of people still waiting to receive their own copy of the Holy Scriptures. But with the help of many supporters in every corner of the globe, along with the dedication of hard-working staff and the leading of the Holy Spirit, this past year we saw that number reduced by millions.

It is the first time that the number of Bibles distributed by Bible Societies has exceeded 30 million in a single year. And these figures do not include Bibles in other formats, such as audio or digital, which are rapidly growing in importance and will soon become the main channels for Bible distribution.

The biggest growth was seen in Africa and the Americas, where 3.6 million more Bibles were distributed last year than in 2010. Bible distribution in Europe and the Middle East rose by a modest 2.7%, but fell by 4.2% in Asia Pacific.

The majority of the Bibles we distributed were in the world's major international languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili.

The distribution of smaller items of Scripture, such as Psalms or Gospels, increased, too, from 337 million in 2010 to nearly 350 million last year.

In total, the United Bible Societies fellowship distributed more than 381 million Bibles and other Scriptures last year, reaching a potential 5.4 per cent of the world's population (based on one item of Scripture per person.) Whatever you may have heard, there is no doubt that the Bible remains by far the best-selling book in the world!

Global Bible Distribution 2009-2011



Bible Distribution per Region 2009-2011



For generations, faithful men and women have successfully faced the challenges of daily life through prayerful guidance from the pages of God’s Word. To ensure that every man, woman and child has ready access to the Bible’s life-giving message, CBS translates, publishes and distributes complete Scriptures and portions in over 100 languages as well as 23 Canadian First Nations tongues. Here are four recent stories of how these efforts are dramatically impacting lives around the world.

The Hakka Bible makes God’s Word

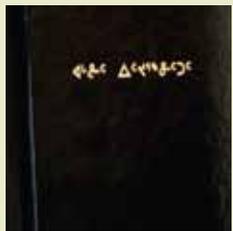
accessible to four million Taiwanese people. 愛感謝上主，因為佢係至善；佢个慈愛永遠長存。



Oi kaím-chhia Song-chu; yíh-vi Ki’he chu-san; Ki’ke chhu:oi yuñ-yeñ chhoñg-chhuñ. This is the opening verse of Psalm 136 in Hakka, the language spoken

by four million Taiwanese. Of course you know the familiar English translation: “Praise the Lord! He is good. God’s love never fails” (CEV). Today, Hakka Christians thank God for His goodness and love, made clear through the publication of the Bible in their heart language. This vital project was the result of a collaboration between the Bible Society in Taiwan and numerous ministry partners – all using the CBS translation and typesetting suite, Paratext.

Reverend Dr. Paul McLean, a missionary from the Presbyterian Church in Canada who served on the translation team, expressed the deep feelings of everyone involved when he said, “We pray that God will use the new Hakka Bible to lead people to faith in Christ, transform individuals, families and communities and help build God’s kingdom of love, justice and peace in Taiwan and other countries where Hakka people have made their home”.



The Inuktitut Bible... 33 years of waiting is finally over!

“Every time I visit the Arctic, people ask me, ‘When will we have the complete Bible?’ Now their question can finally be answered.” This was the happy report from Hart Wiens, director of Scripture translations at CBS. On June 3, in Iqaluit, the



capital of the Nunavut territory, milestones were celebrated as a cathedral was dedicated, new bishops were consecrated and God’s Word was celebrated. On this brisk, sunny day, the Inuit people finally received what they had eagerly awaited thirty-three years... the Inuktitut Bible –

an entire translation in their own tongue! The Inuktitut Bible is also the first full translation produced in Canada using Paratext, the cutting edge computer software tools distributed and supported by CBS.

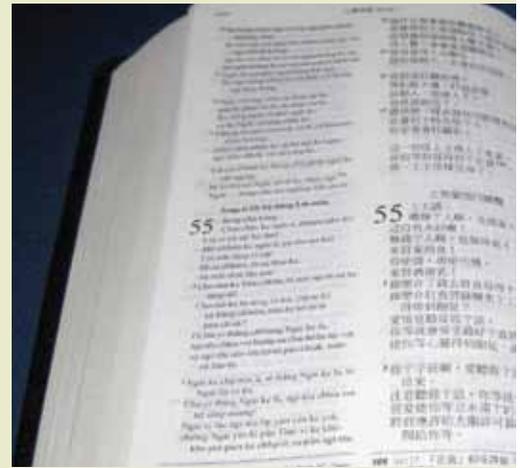


The CBS Digital Bible Library: Bringing God’s Word to the Z’s – and beyond

If you’ve spent any time around someone from Generation Z (those

born after 1990), then it won’t surprise you that young people don’t gather information the same way as previous generations. Nearly everything they read is through some type of electronic device. Of course, increasingly, the same can be said of every age demographic. To meet this vast and growing need, CBS will archive the Scriptures in its central Digital Bible Library.

By employing an approved format consistent with digital publishing standards, we can now be confident that users are receiving the true Word of God – just as if they were handling old-fashioned ink and paper. As the



Digital Bible Library grows, it will facilitate greater access to the Scriptures on both electronic readers and mobile listening devices. Ultimately our goal is to make God’s timeless Word available for every conceivable modern context.

Many languages, one amazing translation tool... introducing ICAP

Through the Institute for Computer Assisted Publishing (ICAP), CBS is now at the forefront of computer support for Bible translation and publishing. All over the world, translators, teachers, IT professionals and programmers are linked and enabled through ICAP to benefit from an application suite called Paratext. This amazing collection of integrated software programs allows translators to produce Bibles for those who speak one of the 4,000 languages that are still without a single book of the Bible.

Today, nearly 3,000 active Bible translation and publishing projects are supported by Paratext and associated ICAP software solutions. To produce a new Bible, translators must use their linguistic expertise to maintain textual accuracy while ensuring cross-cultural awareness. ICAP is an essential, unique and invaluable resource for navigating this sensitive and very challenging process.

Donate today:

Phone: Toll free 1-800-465-2425

Online: biblesociety.ca

Mail: 10 Carnforth Rd, Toronto Ontario M4A 2S4



Cyclists Gather, Fellowship and Ride to Honour a Man of God... and for Heart Language Bibles

On a bright Sunday morning in early September, cyclists eagerly unloaded their bikes at the Community Baptist Church (LCBC) in Leduc, Alberta to enjoy a vigorous ride – and to celebrate the life of a beloved pastor.

From teenagers to seniors, their enthusiasm was contagious as Leduc's parks, lakes and open spaces were widely explored. By 11 a.m. everyone had returned for a morning worship service – including the church's drummer who coasted in at 10:58 a.m. after a 50k ride!

This scenic workout was LCBC's fall volunteer kickoff, aptly named "Friends of Martyn Thomas Bike for Bibles Sunday". You see, in the fall of 1999 Martyn and his wife moved to Leduc from Calgary after serving for 30 years at the Canadian Bible Society. The Thomases chose LCBC as their home church and soon the congregation and clergy discovered that this vital believer still had plenty to offer the Kingdom. His skills as a speaker, his compassion as minister to the elderly, and his willingness to help whenever possible established him as a beloved and integral figure. Remarkably, Martyn served LCBC while patiently coping with Parkinson's disease.

Two years ago, Martyn decided it was finally time to retire. Despite illness and age, his

passion for Bible translation work had never dimmed. While still at CBS, he was instrumental in bringing the Bike for Bibles initiative to Canada. In fact, in 1996, he led a cross-Canada ride that raised almost one million dollars for Bible translations! So it was a joy to everyone that Martyn was able to send off the riders with words of encouragement for their commitment to providing spiritually hungry souls around the world with God's Word.

Two years ago, Martyn decided it was finally time to retire. Despite illness and age, his passion for Bible translation work had never dimmed.

During the morning service, Martyn shared his testimony – that he came to Christ in 1954 at a Billy Graham Crusade in England – and that he had enjoyed a lifetime of serving his Lord. Marvin Busenius, CBS director of ministry advancement for North and South Alberta, presented Martyn with a plaque acknowledging his vital contribution to translation work. And LCBC also expressed its gratitude as the day's sermon was based on a clever paraphrase of Hebrews 12:1-4: "Let us bike with endurance the race God has set before us".

The vital message from Martyn's selfless life – and from the lives of countless other men



The cross-Canada ride **raises thousands of dollars** for CBS projects every year

and women who have walked similar paths – is that dedicating one's time and energy to the Lord's work produces a harvest of lasting joy, peace and good will. As Peter declared in his first letter, "Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used for others. So use your gift well" 1 Peter 4:10 (CEV). Whatever your personal attributes or professional training, consider how you can apply these blessings in dedicated service. Not only will this benefit others, but you will receive rewards that will last through eternity.

For more information contact CBS at 416-757-4171 or toll free at 1-800-465-2425.



Canadian Bible Society partners with ADVISORS with Purpose... will the legacy you leave... reflect the life you lived

“Good people are remembered long after they are gone.”

(Proverbs 10.7a, CEV).

Solomon made this observation nearly three millennia ago and it's a promise as true today as when first expressed by the wise king. The encouraging words spoken, the thoughtful actions taken, the good will extended, are what resonate for generations when Godly men and women enter their heavenly rest.

This is why CBS have partnered with ADVISORS with Purpose (AWP) to offer a unique opportunity to create a legacy that will impact both the next generation and the Kingdom. The truth is, that your Will is the last statement you'll ever make – and you want it to be meaningful. Yet studies show that 60 percent of all Canadians lack a current, up-to-date Will; and less than five percent give to charity through their Will. Might your situation mirror one of these statistics?

AWP offers the benefit of a professional Estate Planning Specialist, who has agreed to help CBS donors accomplish their financial goals by creating Wills that...

- Maintain an estate's size and avoid unnecessary taxes
- Ensure that proceeds for your heirs will be safe-guarded and maximized
- Integrate a biblical worldview into financial plans



Does your Will incorporate your faith and your values? Do you know with confidence that the next steward is prepared? Will the legacy you leave reflect the life you lived? If you have even the slightest doubt, complete and mail the reply form to connect with our friends at AWP.

Regardless of an estate's size, CBS is confident everyone can benefit from AWP estate planning services. The help you'll receive will carry on your lifetime of stewardship.

For additional information, call AWP at 1-866-336-3315. Or, to speak with someone at the CBS, call Sarala Robinson at 1-800-465-2425 ext 3425 or Paul Filsinger at 519-505-3525.

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The Word. For Life.



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