John 3:16

A Few Specimens of the more than 900 Languages into which the Scriptures have been translated...
FOR God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
A DEVOUT but unlettered Welsh woman was greatly surprised to learn that Jesus did not speak in Welsh. "He always speaks in Welsh to me," she exclaimed. But she forgot that it was because the Gospels had been previously translated into Welsh that she came to know the Christ who spoke to her in the tongue she loved so well.

John 3:16 has been called the "Bible in Miniature." This wonderful verse, or some part or all of the Bible, has now been translated and printed in over nine hundred languages and dialects, so that men, women, and children "to the uttermost parts of the earth" may hear the message of the gospel in their own tongue.

Wrapped up in this simple statement is a world of romance. It is the romance of those who first carried over the Good News from the Greek, in which it was originally penned, into
Latin—the common language of a later day. It is the romance of Wickliffe putting the Word into the tongue of the common people of England in the fourteenth century; of Carey, giving to India the Bible in thirty-eight languages by his own prodigious and almost unbelievable labors; of Morrison buried from the world in China for thirteen years and translating the Word for the great empire which was to be penetrated by the thousands of missionaries who should succeed him; of Eli Smith, working with infinite patience and painstaking care to shape the wonderful Arabic letters so that the Book might be given to the Mohammedan world; of Archdeacon Dennis, of our own day, toiling on for a lifetime in Central Africa, to start at last with his precious manuscript for England, that it might be printed for his people, only to lose his life in a torpedoed vessel while his translation floated to the friendly shores of Wales; it
is the romance of these and hundreds of like
character in the long and fascinating history of
Bible translation.

It is the romance, too, of the colporteur—the
John the Baptist of the missionary forces—finding
his way into the neglected homes of the
frontier and of the crowded city; pushing his
wheelbarrow of Bibles into Chinese villages, or
leading his heavy-laden donkey into the moun-
tains of Argentina; winding his way up the

rivers in Siam to the accompaniment of the
chattering of monkeys and in the shade of
tropical foliage; meeting the immigrant from
the lands of the closed Bible, with a copy of the
Open Book in his own language, or urging the
life-giving Word upon the stevedores on the
wharf; reading the Message to the negro family
in the cabins of the South, or offering it to the
miners of the mountain camps; taking the
Book to the Chocktaw or the Cherokee on the
Indian Reservation, or putting it into the hands of the prisoner in the jail.

It is the romance, too, of the opening of blind eyes; because for them the Bible has been printed in many languages in raised letters in this and in other lands.

It is the romance of the printing press, from the days of Gutenberg's crude hand machine, slowly turning out its first book—the Bible—page on page, to the almost human mechanism of the twentieth century, turning out its thirty million copies a year; of a practically unbroken chorus of printing presses producing Bibles for over a hundred years now for the great Bible Societies, until for many years some complete book of the Bible appears in a new language every six weeks, while the American Bible Society alone is now producing annually more than eleven million volumes of the Scriptures.

It is the romance of a half-hundred places
and processes which enter into the making of the Book; the forests of the North where the paper has its birth; the mines of the Rand whence is dug the gold that names the Book in gilded letters “Holy Bible”; the pigments ground and compounded into the printer's ink; the fields of flax for the spinning of the thread which binds the sacred pages. For the work of a host of men and women, who little suspect their labors' end, enters into the making of a Bible.

It is a gracious ministry, which offers a fellowship of service to all who believe that “the Word shall not return unto Him void.” To it unnumbered thousands have consecrated their time and their talent, their prayers and their gifts, with fervent longing for the day when there shall be none who have not heard the glad word “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
Translation, publication, and distribution are all involved in the accomplishment of this purpose.

Translation is a long and costly process: but it is fundamental; publication is calculated to be partially self-supporting through the sale of Scriptures without profit; distribution is largely missionary work through the agency of colporteurs whose salaries and expenses must be provided.

The expenses of the Society in carrying on these three processes aggregate over a million and a quarter dollars a year. Voluntary contributions from individuals and churches are required to help meet these needs. Such gifts, whether large or small, are welcomed, and may be sent to the Treasurer.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

The Annuity Plan is described in Booklet 66.
John 3:16

in China