

Work of the Gideons

In November 1908, The Gideons International began placing Bibles in hotel rooms. Three traveling men in Janesville, Wisconsin, had formed the organization in 1899 for the purpose of promoting the gospel. Since then, the Gideons have put more than 500 million Bibles and New Testaments with Psalms in hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, shelters and schools.

Today, The Gideons International places and distributes Scripture in 181 countries in 82 languages. The organization has programs geared toward the homeless, students, nurses, military and law enforcement personnel, firefighters and others. Every six days, The Gideons International distributes more than 1 million copies of God's Word at no cost. The work is supported entirely by donations.

The very best location to place the Scripture, however, is inside us. The psalmist wrote that he had hidden God's Word in his heart so that he could avoid sinning. This requires more than reading the Bible. As human beings, we can never achieve perfection in this life, but the Bible – if we study it, take it to heart and are led by the Holy Spirit in obeying its precepts – can help us pursue the righteous life God intended for us.

As the Living Word, Jesus gave us a visible picture of God and demonstrated a life pleasing to Him. We are likewise called to live our lives in a manner that points others to God. This requires a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures – studying and meditating until the Bible influences our thoughts and our actions.

--Beecher Hunter