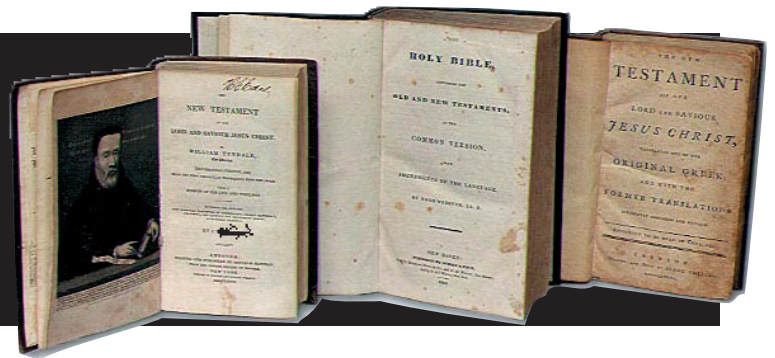


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Fall 2012

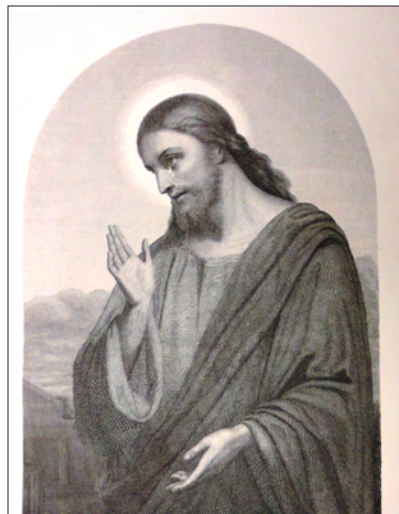
Vol. 10, Issue 1

## Celebrating the Life of Jesus, the Christ

Through the illustrations in 25 rare Bibles, visitors to the Dunham Bible Museum can reflect on the life of Jesus in its uniqueness and saving power. The special exhibit *Celebrating the Life of Jesus, the Christ: three centuries of Bible art* will be at the Museum through the end of May 2013. The exhibit is a reprise of one developed by Dr. John Hellstern in 2008 for the opening of the Dunham Bible Museum in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.

The Bible art of Jesus' life is arranged into four categories: Birth through Baptism, Miracles and Healings, Parables and Teaching, Passion and Resurrection. Most of the Bibles on display are from Dr. Hellstern's personal collection, now at the Dunham Bible Museum, and date from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Some of the illustrations in the Bibles date from much earlier. The picture of the healing of the woman with an issue of blood is from the catacombs of the 4th century. Other illustrations include copper and steel engravings, chromolithographs, and photographs. Some of the illustrations are based on art works by Van Eck, Rembrandt, and others. The famous Bible illustrator Gustave Doré is well represented. Also on display as part of the exhibit are "The Nativity" and "The Sower and the Seed," prints from the recently completed *St. John's Bible*.

Visitors to *Celebrating the Life of Jesus, the Christ* can not only appreciate the reflections of the artists as they contemplated the life of Jesus, but will be drawn anew to the text of the Bible, our primary source for the greatest life ever lived and the greatest story every told.



The engraving of "Jesus Weeping over Jerusalem", from an 1863 Bible, is based on an oil painting, now in London's Victoria and Albert Museum, by French Artist Ary Scheffer (1795-1858).

## The Bounty Bible

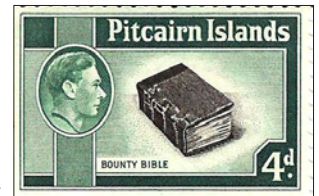
Mutiny on the *Bounty* has been the source of numerous poems, plays, novels, and at least five films, with stars such as Errol Flynn, Clark Gable, Marlon Brando, Anthony Hopkins and Mel Gibson. The story of the mutiny aboard the British ship in 1789 has become a part of the popular culture. Fascinating though the story is of the mutiny and Captain Bligh's amazing return to England after being left adrift on a raft at sea, the story of the conversion of one of the mutineers is even more wonderful.

After capturing the *Bounty*, the mutineers at first took the ship to Tahiti. After several months, Fletcher Christian and eight of the mutineers, along with 18 Tahitians, set sail again, eventually settling on the then uninhabited island of Pitcairn. This island Paradise was soon marred by the Englishmen's mistreatment of the Tahitians. The Tahitians rebelled, killing all but four of the English. Another Englishman then learned how to distill liquor from the ti plant, and drunkenness became a way of life. One Englishman jumped off a cliff in a drunken stupor; another became insane and was killed in order to prevent him from killing others; another was dying of consumption. The fourth, Alexander Smith, destroyed the still and all the liquor on the island and spent several months in withdrawal from alcohol. He then discovered a Bible and a *Book of Common Prayer* from the remains of the *Bounty*. Smith was illiterate, but before his death in 1801, Young taught Smith to read. Smith kept reading the Bible, and gradually his life was transformed by what he read. He began teaching the children and some of the mothers how to read, with the Bible and the prayer book as their only texts. Smith taught the Tahitians about the Christian faith, established a daily time of prayer, grace before meals, and worship on Sundays.

In 1808, Mayhew Folger, captain of the American ship *Topaz*, landed on Pitcairn island and was amazed to find 35 English-speaking Polynesians practicing the Christian faith and living very orderly lives. When British ships later visited the island, they too were amazed by the Christian lives of the people.

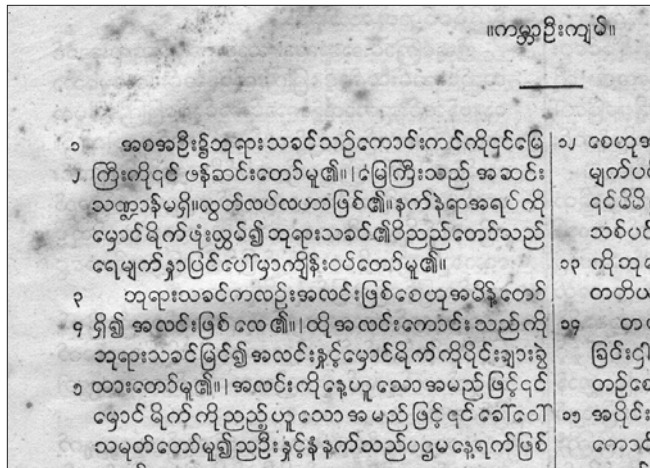
A church and school were built on the island, and Alexander Smith continued to take a personal responsibility in the Christian nurture of the people until his death at the age of 70 in 1829. Reading the Bible had not only converted a drunken sailor to become a vibrant Christian, it had transformed a people and a culture. The Word of God is indeed alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12).

The importance of the Bible to Pitcairn Island was even commemorated in postage stamps - the Pitcairn Island "Bounty Bible" stamp, 1940-1951 (pictured above) was recently acquired by the Dunham Bible Museum. Besides the Bounty Bible, the stamp includes a picture of British King George VI, since the Pitcairn islands are British territories.



# A Burmese-English Bible Project

Gospel Wings International (GWI) recently contacted the Dunham Bible Museum to see if it could furnish a copy of Adoniram Judson's Burmese Bible translation. Since a digital copy of this Bible was made three years ago for missionary Tom Gaudet, we were happy to provide a digital copy to GWI.



"Genesis" in Adoniram Judson's Burmese Bible translation

GWI, headquartered in California and led by Mrs. Irene Kim, has a Research Center in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma) focusing on spreading the Gospel in Myanmar. The Center's "In-Depth Bible Intensive Course," taught in conjunction with Daehyun Church in South Korea, teaches Biblical insights to native missionaries. According to Mrs. Kim, "These courses are attended by seminary graduate students and current missionaries who have devoted their lives in serving the Lord through sharing the Gospel." The digitized copy of Judson's Burmese Bible from the Dunham Bible Museum's collections will be used to teach students about their Burmese Christian heritage.

While teaching the course, it was discovered that many errors had come into the Burmese Bible, leading to misunderstandings of the Scripture. For example, in Genesis 4:7 the English Bible states, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, Sin is crouching at your door; It desires to have you, but you must master it." In the Burmese Bible, instead of the word "sin", the translation reads "offering Lamb is at your door; it will follow your will and you will rule it or you must rule it."

Because of such errors, the Bible Society of Myanmar (BSM) is issuing a new Burmese Judson Version Bible, with a planned release in 2013. There are 135 ethnic groups with 135 languages within Myanmar, and to many Burmese is a foreign language. Since English is taught in all the schools, GWI is publishing a diglot new Burmese Judson Version-English Bible which can be used by pastors and seminary students of all ethnic groups in Myanmar. Mrs. Kim stated that "GWI believes the diglot (two languages) Bible will hold its important role of existing right beside the various ethnic languages and preventing misinterpretation of the intended messages within the Scripture. Additionally, we have faith that the diglot Bible will reveal the power of the gospel and work in miraculous ways in the land of Myanmar."

# Developing ...

The Dunham Bible Museum's website has been down for several months, as HBU's website itself was being redesigned, but now the Bible Museum's website is up again ([www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum))! Though there is still work to be done, pay us a visit and let us know what you think. There are many resources available for further exploration of the Bible's history and influence.

Visitors returning to the Dunham Bible Museum in the coming weeks will find several new features in the exhibits. A new monitor is being installed near the foreign language exhibits, just underneath the moon on the mural, which will feature several short videos of astronauts speaking about the Bible. Among these will be a video from December 24, 1968, when the Apollo 8 astronauts orbited the moon and read the first 10 verses of Genesis "to all the people of the earth." At that time, the broadcast was the most widely watched broadcast ever.

Greta Collins and Gregory Dean Propps donated a pump organ from the 1890's in memory of their parents Ruth and Elijah Propps. The pump organ was once in the Ross Avenue Baptist Church in Dallas. First used in the early tent meetings of the church in the 1890s, it was then used in the first two church buildings. Once no longer used by the church, it was restored and in the home of Elijah and Ruth Propps, who were married in Ross Avenue Baptist and became long-time members of Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston. The pump organ has been placed in the Severance Lyceum of the Dunham Bible Museum and will become a focal point of a new exhibit on hymnals and psalters, which will open December 3.



Ralph Hull donated three exquisite sets of Bibles published by Merrymount Press in the early 20th century. Each Bible consists of 14 volumes, and is printed on handmade paper and illustrated with photogravures of Biblical art. The leather bindings for each set is distinctive and elegant.

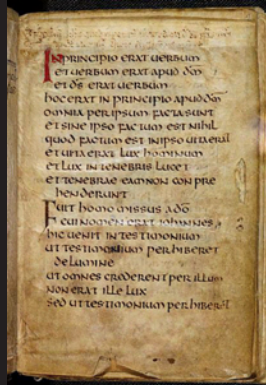
Plans are being made for a special exhibit to open next year of archaeological artifacts from a biblical site. More details coming in the next issue of the *Dunham Bible Museum News*.



## Take Note!

- **"DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND THE BIBLE: ANCIENT ARTIFACTS, TIMELESS TREASURES"**, a special exhibit on the Dead Sea Scrolls is at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth through January 11. A lecture series by distinguished scholars is scheduled alongside the exhibit. For more information, see [www.TheScrolls.com](http://www.TheScrolls.com).
- Emanuel Tov of the Hebrew University and a leading scholar on the Dead Sea Scrolls will deliver a lecture, **"THE BIBLICAL SCROLLS AT QUMRAN"**, at 7 p.m., October 22, in the Belin Chapel of Houston Baptist University. The lecture is sponsored by HBU's School of Theology.
- **THE MUSEUM OF BIBLICAL ART** in Dallas has reopened in a beautiful building after the devastating 2005 fire. Besides a rich collection of art with biblical themes, through December 31 the Museum hosts a King James Bible exhibit featuring the rare Bible collection of Dr. Charles Ryrice. See [www.biblicalarts.org](http://www.biblicalarts.org) for details.
- **DR. DONALD BRAKE** has a blog with the *Washington Times* which often includes information and background on the history of the Bible (See <http://communities.washingtontimes.com>). Dr. Brake is author of *A Visual History of the King James Bible* and *A Visual History of the English Bible*. His rare Bible collection is now part of the Dunham Bible Museum.
- In April the British Library purchased **"ST. CUTHBERT'S GOSPEL"** from the British Province of the Society of Jesus for £9 million (\$14.3 million). The pocket gospel book gains its name for having been in the tomb of St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, the 7th century manuscript is in Latin and is the earliest known western bookbinding to survive. The manuscript has been digitized and can be found at [www.bl.uk/manuscripts/fulldisplay.aspx?ref=Add\\_ms\\_8900](http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/fulldisplay.aspx?ref=Add_ms_8900).

*The beginning of the Gospel of John in St. Cuthbert's Gospel*



- **"THE OTHER IRANIAN REVOLUTION,"** an article in the July/August 2012 issue of *Christianity Today*, reports on the numerous Iranian refugees in east Germany and their conversion from Islam to Christianity. The spiritual awakening among the Iranian Moslems began in Saxony, the birthplace of the Reformation. Twelve years ago Trinity Parish in Leipzig began teaching German as a second language to Iranian refugees seeking asylum in Germany. The church used Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible as its textbook. Scholars recognize Luther's Bible was important in creating the modern German language. Many Iranians heard the truth of the Gospel for the first time. Throughout eastern Germany, a growing number of Persians are converting to the Christian faith through the reading of the Bible.

## A Faithful Servant

Many visitors to the Dunham Bible Museum learn about the Museum's collection and the history of the Bible from Doug Sanders, a volunteer at the Museum for the past six years. Mr. Sanders began working at the Bible Museum when it was still located in the Moody Library and was a great help in moving the Museum into the Morris Cultural Arts Center. He has become a regular in guiding groups through the Museum.



*Doug Sanders demonstrating the Gutenberg style press.*

Mr. Sanders brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his work at the Bible Museum. An engineer and physicist by training, Mr. Sanders was a professor at Western Kentucky University and LeTourneau University. At the same time he was active in Christian work and earned master's degrees in both Divinity and Sacred Theology from Mid America Baptist Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary. For twenty-five years he was a volunteer faculty member at Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

Mr. Sanders spoke about his volunteer work at the Bible Museum: "I am immensely grateful that it gives me an opportunity to put my little bit of formal training in Theology and Church History to work in my later years at an age when it is often hard to find useful work to do."

Not only does Mr. Sanders provide entertaining and informative tours, but he has become the Museum's printer. He's mastered the art of printing on the Gutenberg style press and is meticulous in studying the inks and techniques which produce the best results. Last year he was the featured printer in the film *KJV: Making of the King James Bible*. He now has trained some of the museum's student assistants to work the press as well.

We are indeed immensely grateful to have Mr. Sanders volunteer his time and experience at the Dunham Bible Museum. Thank you, Mr. Sanders!



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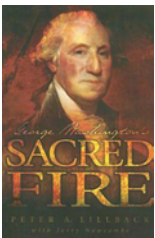
Visit our website at  
[www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum)

“The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner.”

~ William Cameron Townsend

## EXHIBITS & EVENTS

- *Celebrating the Life of Jesus, the Christ; Three Centuries of Bible Art*, from the John Hellstern Collection, through May 31, 2013
- “The Biblical Scrolls at Qumran”, lecture by Emanuel Tov, leading Dead Sea Scroll Scholar from the Hebrew University, October 22, 7 p.m., Belin Chapel, sponsored by HBU’s School of Theology
- *Singing Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*, an exhibit of psalters and hymnals, opens December 1, in the Severance Lyceum of the Museum.



- “The Bible and George Washington,” lecture by Dr. Peter Lillback, author of *Washington’s Sacred Fire*, President of Westminster Seminary and President of The Provident Forum, March 7, 2013, 7 p.m., Belin Chapel.
- “Romans,” presented by Abe Stratton, April 17, 2013, 7 p.m., Mabree Theater.

## Support the Dunham Bible Museum by joining the *Dunham Bible Museum Friends*

Friends have the satisfaction that their tax deductible gifts will enable the Dunham Bible Museum to continue to develop its exhibits and outreach and enable it to achieve its goal of being a premier museum dedicated to the Bible, its message, history and influence.

Memberships are available at several levels and benefits, including King James (\$50), Geneva (75), Coverdale (\$250), Wycliffe (\$500), and Tyndale (\$1000). For more information visit the Dunham Bible Museum’s website at [www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum).

Memberships may be submitted online or by mailing to Dunham Bible Museum, Houston Baptist University, 7502 Fondren Road, Houston, TX 77074

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## The Dunham Bible Museum is Open

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except University holidays.

To make an appointment for group tours, or for further information, contact:

Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or [dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu)

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