

FINAL NOTE



The Printed Page

There is something that I just love about the printed page. I always have. In high school, I took great pride as the editor of our school newspaper, securing extra funding from our school board to make it the best that it could be. On the day that it would come out of the printing press, I could not wait to see the finished product, turn its pages, and marvel at the wonder of paper and ink. Our editorial teams' stories, ideas, news, and opinions, combined with the wonder of typesetting and paste up (at the time), all found their completion at press time. The satisfaction I felt then, when holding the end result in my hands, has never gotten old.

When Johannes Gutenberg invented the moveable-type printing press in the 1450's, the Bible became available in print for the first time. Before that, any existing Bibles were copied by hand. The 180 Bibles published in that first-ever run were in Latin and were available only to wealthy leaders of the church. It was not long before the invention produced mass copies that, 80 or so years later, would become available to ordinary readers in vernacular languages. While I do use *The Bible App* on my phone for easy reference, nothing compares to pouring over the printed page, holding the Word of God in my hands. I'm grateful to Johannes Gutenberg for this revolutionary invention that has benefited countless readers around the world.

As I write, I am eagerly awaiting copies of a new magazine called *Timelanders*, a collaborative effort of several English-speaking SU movements. This quarterly magazine has potential for bringing engagement with God's Word to a brand-new audience of 8–11-year-olds. We expect it will be translated and published in various languages represented by other SU movements. Access to Scripture goes on through the centuries, to many cultures and to different ages, young and old.

May you find your engagement with the Word, enlightened by the Spirit, filled with encouragement and joy today— whether on the printed page or the digital screen, give thanks for this incredible gift.

By Gail A. Martin
President
Scripture Union USA