

# THE Intercessor



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## Roman Roads

I love history. So recently I've been using my travel time to listen to the podcast "The History of Rome." It's been fascinating to learn more about the rise of this empire that spanned a good part of the known world. It's even more amazing to consider how this empire's rise paralleled the life of Christ, the advent of the church age and the spread of the gospel.

During the four hundred years between the Old Testament and New Testament God was silent, but not inactive. He ordained that during that time the Romans would go from relative obscurity to THE world power. In order to move soldiers and maintain the empire, the Romans would build roads and bridges that would connect the world like never before.

What does that have to do with Bible Visuals International?

Let me share with you a platform we've been exploring recently. Createspace is a company owned by Amazon that allows people to self-publish their materials. We've set up some of



amazon.de (Germany) listing of *The Refuge*

(cont'd from page 1)

our stories in Createspace in what we call our "Family Format". These books have the words and text together so families can read these stories together or children can read them independently. In the past, we couldn't even consider offering formats like this because of the additional cost of printing these along with our teacher resources.

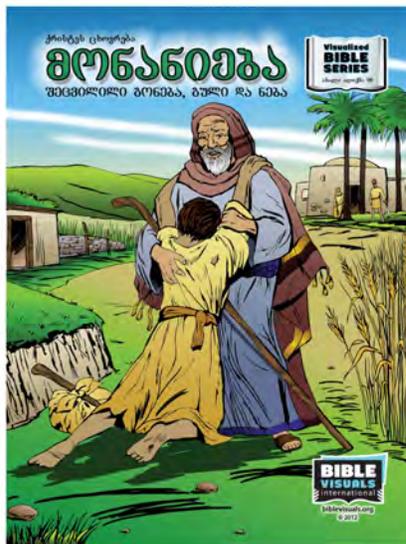
However, in Createspace, the books are printed one at a time (print on demand). They are also ordered directly through Amazon (or Createspace) so shipping is handled by them rather than us. That means that once we set up materials in this format, we have no additional expenses, but receive a royalty on the sale.

But here's where things get like the Roman Empire. Materials that are set up in this program are not only listed on Amazon, they are PRINTED by Amazon. Right now a BVI book ordered through [amazon.fr](http://amazon.fr) (French site) is printed in France and shipped locally to ministry partners. Consider the alternative. We would normally have to ship materials to France via international shipping options.

Make no mistake, Amazon is certainly not a missions organization. However, the infrastructure of their "empire" is providing us a new way to provide print materials abroad! What man establishes for his own purposes, God often uses for His greater purposes. We are in the midst of adding some of our teacher resources in this format and translations will follow. Amazon is also working to expand their empire. Just last month they acquired a UAE company called [souq.com](http://souq.com) in an effort to distribute more materials in the Middle East.

Where they go, we go. . .

*Thomas Johnson*



## Other Roads

If the first article leads you to believe that BVI is only traveling the Amazon road, let me assure you we're not. There are a number of roads we're exploring including one in the language pictured here.

Having a hard time identifying it?

There's a reason. It's the Georgian language, the major branch of the Kartvelian language family which is not connected to any other language family in the world! It's also a language BVI has not translated materials into . . . until now.

This Spring missionaries to the Georgian Republic approached BVI about translating, printing and distributing BVI materials among the churches of this country. There are very few resources of this kind in the Georgian language.

Since then we have worked out the details of a royalty-free licensing agreement and the work has started! Supplying needy brothers and sisters in this way is more than just a good idea. It's a clear mark of our faith.

*"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:17*

SAVE THE DATE!  
BVI BANQUET May 10th, 2018  
at Shady Maple Smorgasbord  
"Stories of Grace"  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Tim Keese

## Production News

**FILLING A LITTLE SPACE**—The Susanna Wesley story is in the final stages of production as Bethany and Olivia Moy finish up the illustration work. Thank you to the following churches who helped sponsor this project.

Emmanuel Baptist Church (Mechanicsburg, PA)  
 Reformation Bible Church (Harford, MD)  
 Community Bible Church (Leola, PA)  
 Harvest Bible Church (Lancaster, PA)

**DAVID BRAINERD STORY**—(NEW!) Work has begun on a new five-chapter story on missionary David Brainerd. We are thrilled to have Pastor Joe Tyrpak serve as the author. Joe recently helped to produce a documentary and devotional about Brainerd through ChurchWorksMedia. The text draft is complete, however, we are waiting on funds to initiate the illustration phase.

**ELINOR YOUNG STORY**—(NEW!) Despite her physical limitations due to polio, Elinor Young served as a missionary to the Kimyal people in Irian Jaya, Indonesia. She helped to translate the New Testament into their language and God used her weakness in a powerful way to show the Kimyal people His great love for them. Author, Katie Zappitella, is researching and writing the text for this biography over the summer.



(top)  
 Illustration of  
 John Wesley's  
 rescue from  
*Filling a Little  
 Space*.

(right) a page  
 from  
 Brainerd's  
 diary.

(Bottom right)  
 Elinor Young in  
 Irian Jaya



### MONDAY

- Pray for wisdom and direction for our Board of Directors: Dave Hanson, Mike Battaglia, Gordon Denlinger, Rev. Matthew Black, Bill Neumann, Jean Keiser, Bruce Martin, Don Toland and Dr. Christine Beiler.
- Pray for Director Tom Luttmann and his wife Betsy along with their five children, Elijah, Samuel, David, Jesse and Ginger.
- Pray for the children of Africa—493 million

### TUESDAY

- Pray for BVI staff members Patti Pope, Melody Mayer and Dave Spangler.
- Pray for former BVI Director, Karen Weitzel as she has recently begun cancer treatment.
- Pray for the children of the Americas—230 million

### WEDNESDAY

- Praise: Freelance Graphic Artist Joshua Day and his wife Jocelyn welcomed Joyanna Caroline Day to their family on Father's Day, June 18th!
- Pray for all of our writers, illustrators and volunteers
- Pray for the children of Asia—1.1 billion

### THURSDAY

- Praise: The entire New Testament series has been colorized thanks to the work of ministry partners in India. Huge Blessing!
- Pray for the staff as they review these colorized volumes (see previous note), make adjustments and prepare the files for publication.
- Pray for the children of Europe—118 million

### FRIDAY

- Pray for those translating and transcribing BVI materials in other languages.
- Pray for our distribution partners helping to supply these materials around the world.
- Pray for the children of Oceania—9.6 million

### SATURDAY

- Pray for VBS ministries, neighborhood Bible clubs and mission teams bringing the Gospel to children this summer.
- Pray that children will hear the Gospel, respond in obedience and faith and grow in their faith.



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**MATCHING FUND  
 OPPORTUNITY**

**AUGUST 1st–  
 SEPTEMBER 15th**

God is giving us many opportunities to supply materials to ministry partners far and wide. As we near the end of our fiscal year at the end of September, there is a special way you can help sustain this supplyline ministry.

**Between August 1st and September 15th, your donation to BVI will be doubled! How? A group of donors has agreed to match gifts up to a total of \$10,000.**

This has the potential of putting us in a strong financial position for 2017/2018 and helping us speed up the production of new materials.

You can donate online at [www.biblevisuals.org](http://www.biblevisuals.org), by calling 717-859-1131 or by sending a check to BibleVisuals International, PO Box 153, Akron, PA 17501

**I Corinthians 12:6 “. . . And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.**

In our last Intercessor we noted the passing of author Katherine Hershey. In June we said goodbye to another dear friend of the ministry. Clint Buch served as shipping clerk here at BVI for many years. He was loved dearly by all those who worked with him. No doubt many of you reading this newsletter received BVI materials carefully packaged by his hands.

Former Director, Karen Weitzel, said this of him,



*“Clint was a hard worker, diligent in all he did. He learned to pray aloud during our staff lunches and I loved his sincere trust in God. But he was also a prankster and got us good when he hid a railroad clock in the shipping department. It tooted on the hour and for several hours we had no idea what the noise was or where it came from. He paid for the joke; I put a glue stick in a candy wrapper (after eating the candy bar) and stuck it back where I found Clint’s stash. His jolly laugh when he was caught was infectious. Clint took pride in his work. He loved working at BVI and all the staff loved and respected him.*