

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS

STORY

A February 2005 Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcast told how a few months before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, a group called the Gideons gave out New Testaments with the Psalms to fifty thousand soldiers in the Pacific fleet. At the end of each Bible was a place where the owner could sign his name, showing that the Holy Spirit had brought him to faith in the Savior. The Gideons were founded by businessmen in 1899 to help spread God's Word. They give out millions of Bibles each year.

After the attack, a nurse in Honolulu volunteered to help the military since her son was in the Navy. She was given the task of identifying the dead. One by one, she uncovered the boys to get their identification tags. Then she suddenly found herself looking into the face of her own son. Among her son's possessions was a small New Testament, water soaked, given by the Gideons. She could see her son's signature on the last page. She had never taken him to church or read him the Bible, but the Word had reached him. He read and through the Spirit believed. She asked for her own copy and read it. Then she signed her name under her son's: "I believe in Jesus Christ, my Savior."

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Explain the role of the God's Word in growing and expanding God's kingdom. *God's Word and Holy Spirit bring people to know and repent of their sin (the Law) and to believe upon Jesus as their Savior (Gospel).*
2. How was the nurse witnessed to by her son, even after her son had died? *Curious about her son's newfound faith, she began reading his Bible. Through the Spirit's power, she, too, became a believer.*
3. In addition to the work of the Gideons, how else do believers share God's Word so that, through it, God's will may be done? *Christians share God's Word in everyday conversations with unbelievers, through Christian broadcast media, through publications, music, and in a host of other ways.*