

Newsweek

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8,096,977 Gospels

The trucks that took the hairpin turns of the Burma Road last year bore religious as well as military ammunition. They carried to Chungking 5 tons of thinly printed complete Bibles, testaments, and portions of Scripture. Mail sent inland from Chinese coastal cities brought 31 more tons of the sacred literature, including a New Testament so tiny it passed as letter postage.

China's record hunger for the Holy Writ was described last week in the annual report of the American Bible Society, 126 years old May 14. Now almost the only remaining worldwide Bible distributor, the society during 1941 pledged "no Bible blackout" and gave out 8,096,977 volumes of Scripture—a ten-year peak. It either gave them away or sold them for as little as a penny. All this cost the ABS \$1,000,-877.24, most of it donated by American benefactors.

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