

# VolunteerVoice

BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD

FALL  
2020

ISSUE  
95



Believers in Mozambique learn to teach the Gospel through Church Planter Training.

## In This Issue

### 1-2 VALUED VOLUNTEERS

This section features our Volunteers, their stories, testimonies, and what's happening.

### 5 BLI ACTION PODCAST

Read about this new Bible League tool and join us for a listen!

### 5 BOARD UPDATES

Our October meeting will be held virtually. Check this section for details and updates.



## Paul's Prayer *by Deanna Van Swol, Bible League International*

Uncertainty. Tension. Do you feel it? It has stolen kindness, and gentleness, and self-control. How do we live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

If Christ returned during this pandemic, how would He find the Church? How would He find me and how would He find you? We're pretty weak vessels under pressure. Easily cracked and leaky. But, our hearts still want the Gospel proclaimed. How do we keep our focus on the right things?

In reading Paul's letter to the Philippians, something strikes me. Here we know Paul is chained, in prison, and living with the uncertainty and tension of either

*Continued on page 6*

## Valued Volunteers *by Joanne Marvin*

I enjoy making quilts for our grandchildren. I give one to each when they graduate high school. Each quilt has a different theme, color, and design. I usually ask for their ideas to learn what they like. This is usually accompanied by a trip to the fabric shop, especially for the granddaughters. The boys usually say, "Make whatever you want." I have used themes like sports, hunting, tractors, school colors, and one was military. Our last granddaughter told me to make the design a surprise. So, I tackled a pattern named "Grandmother's Flower Garden." This was made with hexagons all fitted

*Continued on page 2*



Joanne Marvin  
Executive Board President  
Bible League Volunteers

together with seven or eight different fabrics. Yes, it was a challenge with the “y” seams having to meet and intersect exactly. The end result was very beautiful, and she loves her quilt.

My devotion the other morning was about a lady who made a queen-size quilt using this pattern. When she completed it, she donated the quilt to a fundraiser for her church’s youth group. Many people were in awe of her handiwork and questioned why she donated it. She responded, “This way my talents can be used for a much greater good.” Her quilt raised a great amount for the youth program.

Each of us have been given different talents. How are we using them for a lasting reward? Being united together as in a quilt, we can do a great deal of work for the Lord.

Our fundraising goal as Volunteer Ambassadors and Key Contacts is set at \$400,000; it’s in God’s hands whether or not we meet this goal. Even the smallest amount can be used to provide Bibles for our brothers and sisters globally. Let us keep striving to use our talents for the glory of God.



## PRAYER

Excerpts from *Extreme Prayer* (chapter 2) by Greg Prueett

“Since only the Word of God and people last forever, we should pray that God would use our lives to connect his Word to the souls of people.

“Jesus did not promise to answer just any prayer the way we want. He promised to answer certain kinds of prayers, including the ones that match his plans for the world. ...We might not be comfortable for the rest of our life. It’s not that God doesn’t care. He grieves along with us, just as he did at the tomb of Lazarus, anguished at the state of this world and our lives. However, the time has not yet come to wipe away every tear from our eyes in this imperfect world.

“The good news is that Jesus promises to release the full force of heaven when His people focus their prayers on His plan to redeem the people of this world, something He is passionate about. This is the core truth about extreme prayer: **praying for the mission of God brings power beyond measure.**

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything *according to his will*, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—*whatever we ask*—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

(1 John 5:14-15 NIV)



## EDUCATION

by Judy Vander Wall, Bible League International

*Key Contact—A New Meaning.* I support the Volunteer Ambassadors in my role at Bible League International, and I recently sorted things that had been gathered by our historian Dorothy Vander Wilt over the years.

One page grabbed my attention. I thought to myself, “I never knew that before!” I posted about it on our BLV Key Contacts Facebook page, and Jill Fase commented that this was new to her too after all her years with Bible League.

What was this new revelation? It had to do with the name ‘Key Contact.’ Here is what I discovered from that document from years ago. Why are Volunteers referred to as Key Contacts? I sort of knew what the Key meant, but this has now become more meaningful to me:

*A key unlocks, opens doors, and must be in our hands and placed into position in the proper tumbler of a lock, and then TURNED to be effective and open the lock. As Key Contacts, we will only be effective as we place ourselves in God’s hand, and allow Him to use us as He, through the power of His Holy Spirit, opens doors to the hearts of people. If we say we are His keys, and then tuck ourselves in a drawer, or out of reach, we will be of no use to Him. We have to be available for service, and we have to place ourselves in His hand in obedience, allowing Him to do the turning.*

I give thanks for all “Keys” today. May we all have that desire to be used by God as His servants for His glory.

*“Fundraising” continued on page 5*

Please submit your articles for the next newsletter by 10/30/2020



## FUNDRAISING

by Andrew Earnshaw, Bible League International

How do we teach kids about generosity and let them know the needs of children around the world? My wife and I often ponder that question while raising our three boys. This can be a great challenge.

There are a lot of new things happening around “the League,” but one thing I’m very excited about is our “Light of the World” adventure. This year, during the Thanksgiving season, we will be offering volunteer churches the opportunity to engage in a five-week adventure that teaches kids what it is to be a good steward and shows them how they can reach kids all around the world with the Gospel. We are bringing back Bible banks and have other fun videos and activities for the children. This will be an opportunity to engage children and their parents and will also help them stay in touch with the work of Bible League throughout the year.

## Are You Thirsty?

Grab a cup of coffee and join host Michael Woolworth of Bible League International and special guests for a few minutes of engaging talk. As you listen to their compelling stories, you’ll be connected to the frontlines of this global ministry. You’ll see how your gifts and prayers help serve the under-resourced Church with Bibles and training to transform lives worldwide through God’s Word.



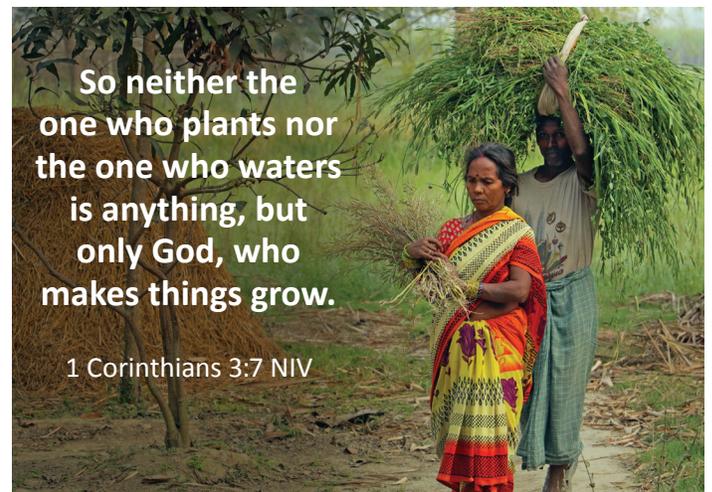
Ministry in Albania and Armenia can be heard at this link: [bibleleague.org/action-podcast](http://bibleleague.org/action-podcast)

## COVID-19

Cancellations everywhere! But, like those on the frontlines of ministry who give their all to share Christ through God’s Word, you have not canceled your desire to support Bible League.

Praise God for those who continue the Love Letters, for Newaygo County’s garage sale and GR South handmade items, and for the NW Iowa virtual luncheon and Christmas in July. Praise Him, too, for Central Iowa, all the retreat committees, and the DeMotte pie team who have championed special letter and phone call communications to raise funds for Bibles.

So many have stepped up in unique ways to ensure people continue to hear about ministry and partner in engaging people around the world in God’s Word. It is such a blessing!



So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:7 NIV

*And God gives the increase.*

## Fall National Board Meeting—Virtual Meeting on October 21, 2020

We invite all Volunteer Ambassadors/Key Contacts to participate online. Sign up with Deanna or Joanne by October 4 and you’ll receive the book *Extreme Prayer* by Greg Prueett.

You’ll hear from Bible League leadership, get an inside scoop from the field, participate in group discussions, and receive training so we can...

**TELL THE WORLD ABOUT JESUS THROUGH BIBLE LEAGUE**

**2020 GOAL**  
**\$400,000**

Bible League Volunteer donations providing Bibles and training around the world as of 8/31/2020 are \$226,852 (56.7% of goal with 91.7% of fiscal year 2020 completed)

# Greetings and Blessings to You from

BIBLES FOR MISSIONS  
THRIFT CENTERS

Fellow Bible League supporters,

How do you spell NORMAL? The thrift centers have finally re-opened, but many have abbreviated schedules. Daily, weekly, or monthly, things can change at any given time. Does any of this surprise you? It seems to go along with what the Bible says if you ask me. God is faithful! The bounty of donations continues to roll in, and the volunteers are doing a yeoman's job of keeping up even though we do not have our full staff in yet. And the customers love that we have reopened to their shopping delights—even with some stores having shorter hours.

I ask for your continued prayers that God will touch the lives of other individuals joining the volunteer ranks. With many job changes, it has

brought some new people. Yet for us to grow and raise additional funds, we need the next generation to step forward. It took some time to get the finances up and running, but funds are starting to move to Bible League to help fulfill their purpose. The all-knowing God is not surprised. He didn't flinch at this situation we are ALL in. We know where He sits, and He is our victory. That means we must do what He has designed for us to be that salt and light in the marketplace, in our comings and goings. Praying we all see the larger picture and not get caught up in the trivial divisive rhetoric we hear or see way too much.

Keep your eyes looking to heaven, your hearts towards Him, and do what He tells you to do...

Blessings from Thrift Central, Serving Locally, Impacting Globally!



John Scafe  
National Director  
Bibles for Missions  
Thrift Centers,  
approved partner of  
Bible League International

## Paul's Prayer (continued from page 1)

being released or executed. Horrendous conditions. But do you notice something? The first thing that pours out of him is **gratitude**.

Gratitude. When we intentionally bring to mind God's blessings, our attention moves away from ourselves. We declare that God has blessed us and is present with us. It is Paul's gratitude that is holding his head above the tension and his burden. He declares his love for the Philippians, and he prays for them!

May Paul's prayer be answered in us today:

*...that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; that you will see the difference between what is important and what is not and choose what is important; that you will be pure and blameless for the coming of Christ; that your life will be full of the many good works that are produced by Jesus Christ to bring glory and praise to God.* Philippians 1:9-11 ERV

Thank you for doing what is important—those good works that bring the Gospel to others. Thank you for providing hope!

TODAY we have the perfect opportunity to love one another because God first loved us. He is holding on to you. Let that truth cause love to abound in Christ. As Paul writes in Philippians 1:6, "I am sure that the good work God began in you will continue until he completes it on the day when Jesus Christ comes again."

### LOVE LETTER TESTIMONY

God bless your work! We were at the Serengeti and area—visited the Maasai and observed their culture. Yes! They need God's Word. "THE RED BOOK."

I will be praying for Chief Loibon. We need to pray for the tribal leaders to follow Jesus.

*In Christ, Judy Smalligan*

**467 CHURCHES**  
**22 DIVISIONS**  
[bibleleague.org/volunteer-resources](http://bibleleague.org/volunteer-resources)

**Joanne Marvin** Bible League Volunteer Executive Board President  
616.877.5065 • pauljoannemarvin@gmail.com  
**Deanna Van Swol** 708.367.8541 • dvanswol@bibleleague.org  
**Andrew Earnshaw** 708.367.8732 • aearnshaw@bibleleague.org