

VolunteerVoice

BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD

SPRING
2021

ISSUE
97



You are engaging people in God's Word in Kotayk, Armenia, and throughout the world.

In This Issue

1-2 VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy an update on Volunteer activities—and take a look at what's on the horizon.

2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the calendar for information and see the exciting events to come.

3 THE CALLING

Read how prayer, education, and raising funds are bringing more people to Jesus!



Reflections in Luke *by Dan Chapman*

Bible League International Board Chairman, grandson of founder William Chapman
Dan connected with the staff recently and took us on a journey through the Gospel of Luke. It was a beautiful picture of God's love, sovereignty, mercy, and provision. Here are just a few of the things he shared:

In the first chapter of Luke, Mary was told what would happen to her, and she said, "I am the Lord's servant, let this thing you said happen to me." It is wonderful and refreshing that her first response was "Yes, Lord." There may have been a time we said "Yes" and then after thinking about it, had some trepidation. Perhaps she did as well. Notice how the Lord provides Elizabeth to care for Mary.

Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple. When Simeon sees baby Jesus, God's promise to him is fulfilled. Simeon then shares with Mary, "The things that happen will be painful to you, like a sword cutting through your heart." Through that, Mary

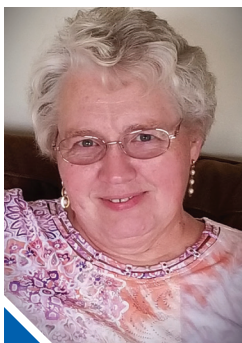
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Valued Volunteers *by Joanne Marvin*

In the 2020 Annual Report, Jos Snoep wrote this about ministry during the pandemic—"You helped bring the hope of the Gospel to more than 200 people every hour of every day in 2020!" Praise God for the growth in His family, our brothers and sisters.

This positive information will not be on the national news. Though the COVID-19 pandemic is scary, as Christians, we must live by faith and trust. God is in control and has each of us in His hands.

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Joanne Marvin
Executive Board President
Bible League Volunteers

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Our Executive Team meets via phone or web once a month for prayer time. During this half hour or so, we pray for each other, staff, Volunteers, and outreach around the world. This has drawn us closer together and has strengthened us. Prayer is very powerful and can work miracles. Here is just an idea or something to think about. Maybe each Division could develop a prayer group. This could be a phone call or a Zoom meeting. Pray for guidance and direction for your Division, get creative with your own ideas.

Another item is Volunteers are to educate others about Bible League International. With churches not meeting as normal, this also can be challenging. But we are creative. A number of years ago, Sally Bielma crocheted scrubbies for Bibles. Look how much money has come from just one project. Let's do the same—be creative in how you inform church families and friends. They need to know of your interest in growing God's family through the Bible League.



EventsCalendar

April 18 – Celebrate Bible League International Anniversary Sunday

Letters and sample materials will be sent out to Volunteer Ambassadors and churches inviting participation.

April 21 – National Volunteer Ambassador Spring Meeting

Similar to our fall meeting, we will have a virtual gathering. Please come! See the insert for information.

Fall Conferences 2021

The keynote speakers are eager to share with us!
Join us in prayer that the pandemic will be behind us and
that the Lord will allow us to enjoy these special events.

Spreading the
Fragrance of Life



*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,
and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.* 2 Corinthians 2:14 ESV

- **Thursday, September 16**
Pella, Iowa – Kelli Kredit Gotthardt
- **Monday-Tuesday, September 20-21**
Sioux Center, Iowa – Kelli Kredit Gotthardt
- **Friday, September 24**
Byron Center, Michigan – Lynn Wilder
- **Saturday, September 25**
Chicagoland – Lynn Wilder



Kelli (Kredit) Gotthardt is the author of *Unlikely Rebel: A Church Girl's Journey Out of Shoulds and Shame*. Kelli helps others develop practices that increase their capacity to listen, lead, and love.



Lynn Wilder is a former Latter-day Saint now biblical Christian, transformed by the Word of God. Learn more about her ministry at <http://unveilingmormonism.com>.

Please submit your articles for the next newsletter by 4/30/2021

2021 GOAL
\$400,000

Bible League Volunteer donations providing Bibles and training around the world as of 2/28/2021 are \$111,325 (27.8% of goal with 41.7% of fiscal year 2021 completed)

The Calling: To pray, educate, and fundraise so people can know Jesus



PRAYER

Do you have a heart for prayer?

There are two Volunteer prayer teams that are looking for committed praying partners!

The Volunteer Prayer Partners receive a list of prayer requests every other week. Partners will receive requests from each ministry region as well as prayer requests and praises from our Volunteer Ambassadors. Please share requests for your Division or local church so we can support you in this way as well. (We have 52 prayer partners on this team!)

The Crisis Prayer Ministry Team handles prayer requests with an immediate need. Team members receive requests a couple times per week with 2-4 requests. On this team, requests are sent to only one member of the team; they are not distributed to the entire team, so a commitment from each individual team member is important. (This devoted team has supported about 800 prayer requests since October 1—what a special and profound ministry!)

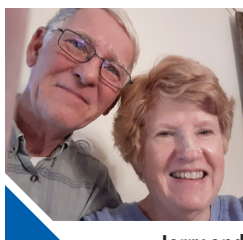
If you are interested in joining either team, please connect with Judy (jvanderwall@bibleleague.org).



EDUCATION

We want to provide terrific resources for you personally and to share with others:

- **Field Video Chats.** During a select time each month, Ryan Castillero hosts a video chat meeting with program volunteers on the field. If you'd like to participate, call your Division President or Deanna Van Swol.



Jerry and
Nancy Dykstra
Education Coordinators

- **Bible League Action Podcast.** Grab a cup of coffee and join host Michael Woolworth as he connects with a new guest from the frontlines of ministry each month. Available anytime online, on Spotify, or your mobile podcast app.

bibleleague.org/action-podcast



Why do we do what we do? The simple answer here is, "Because we love the Lord." But do you realize that the "acts of love" that we do for Bible League are "acts of worship" also? Now this isn't something I came up with myself. I heard it in a worship service! But it bears thinking about.

When you help your church host a dinner to raise funds for Bible League, that's worship. When you drive a group of ladies to an event for Bible League, that's worship. When

you stand up in the front of church during a worship service and do a "ministry moment" for Bible League, that's worship. Every scrubbie made to raise funds...well, you get the picture.

These acts of worship honor God. They show our love for Him. *We love because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:19 ESV



FUNDRAISING

Thank you for your participation in the Light of the World fundraiser! So far, we've raised more than

\$8,000, with more continually coming in! This is impacting children all over the world, and it's impacting kids here at home as well. One boy at Highland Christian School brought in all the savings he had earned over the last couple of years saying, "I heard about how kids and families don't have Bibles, and getting them God's Word is more important than anything else." Miley, in the picture here, heard about the Light of the World and immediately went home, emptied out her kitty bank, and started filling the Bible bank while yelling, "I want more kids to hear about Jesus!" ***There's still time to do this in your local church, school, or for***

VBS! Please go to bibleleague.org/lotw to see how kids in YOUR community can impact kids all over the world!

Andrew Earnshaw, Director of U.S. Ministries



Monthly Donors

Help us share about the opportunity to join a group of faithful givers who support Bible League's global ministry. As people sign-up and commit to monthly giving, there is a consistent flow of resources available to impact the spiritual needs of people worldwide. You can expand this support by encouraging others to equip ministry workers with Bibles through their automatic monthly gifts through your Division. To become a monthly partner, visit bibleleague.org/monthly. The name of your Division can be written in the comment section.

Greetings and Blessings to You from

BIBLES FOR MISSIONS THRIFT CENTERS

I am looking forward to seeing what God does through your hands and our Thrift Centers this year! We're excited that 16 stores are open at some capacity and look forward to increasing hours and volunteer availability where we are able.

I'm so glad I was able to recently work with Jason Lauthers, Bible League's Director of Digital Marketing. I am thrilled about the new Thrift Center promotional video he prepared for us. Jason created two versions. One that tells more of the Bibles for Missions Thrift Center story and a shorter one that we hope the churches will use. We invite you to share the video with your friends and churches. Check it out at biblesformissions.org.

Join us in prayer that the Lord will bring more people to help us in this ministry so we can equip others with the Word of truth and love and freedom. Thank you for serving with us!



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

Reflections *(continued from page 1)*

is being prepared for things that will happen. I imagine the preparation for what is to come has to be slow and over time. And I see the Lord's grace even in that for her.

In Chapter 6, Jesus encourages us not to be afraid of people. It is the perspective of eternity and not the moment. God's kingdom comes first, and He will take care of the physical things. If God makes what grows in the field so beautiful—and He does—what do you think He will do for you? Isn't that reassuring!

And Jesus tells us that even the smallest part of a letter of the law cannot change—it would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for these words to be changed. What confidence we can have in this Word!

In Chapter 17, there is a portion I read and think about my dad. It talks about the 10 lepers who were healed and only one came back to say thank you. My dad put a #9 sticker on the dashboard of every car he ever owned. It was an ugly 9—never a number that looked like it belonged. That was to remind him to NOT be like the 9 who didn't say thank you. He wanted every person who sat in the passenger seat to ask him, "What does the 9 mean?" I can't imagine how many times he was able to tell the story—a gentle introduction of the Bible and just being thankful.

Jesus prepares us for what will happen at the end of time. So, stand up tall, do not be afraid. Jesus says, "You are witnesses, you must go and tell people that they must change and turn to God which will bring them His forgiveness. Tell this message in my name to the people of all nations."

As you read Luke from beginning to end, from before His birth to His dying on the cross and rising again, it is such a refreshing and profound and prescriptive story on how we are to act and think and what we are to do. I love the way that God treats us and responds to us.

I will pull one verse out from Acts 1:14 that shows refreshing celebration after significant pain. *'The apostles were constantly praying...some women, Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers were there with the apostles.'* That struck me. If we look again at the beginning of Luke, Mary is told that there will be some pain ahead for her, like a sword cutting through her heart. That's some pretty significant pain. And that was true. But after all of this was over and Jesus rose from the dead, there must have been such celebration in that room where they were all praising God together!

God is good and He has designed us for relationships. Let's make sure we are forming some level of relationship and community in these moments. I deeply care for the entire Bible League community and I love each of you.

Bible League Volunteer Ambassador Executive Board

Joanne Marvin: President • 616.877.5065 • pauljoannemarvin@gmail.com

Deanna Van Swol: Director of U.S. Ministry Support, Bible League • 708.367.8541 • dvanswol@bibleleague.org

Jill Fase: Vice President • jillfase@gmail.com

Sherri Ten Napel: Secretary • dstennapel@hotmail.com

Jerry and Nancy Dykstra: Education Coordinators • dykstra5354@gmail.com