

Greetings and Blessings to You from

BIBLES FOR MISSIONS
THRIFT CENTERS

It's not over 'til it's over—COVID, voting, Kingdom work! Nothing ends until the Lord Jesus shows up again to rule over heaven and earth! Amen! Until that time, we labor for His cause, whether in our local communities or with our partners who connect generations with God's Word. Each day creates its own challenges for us to embrace our mission to raise funds for God's Word and pass on to the ministries we support. It is amazing that even in this world climate, God is tugging on the hearts of people to serve. Since the virus started, more and more people are trying to figure out what to do with themselves. We KEEP asking, "Come take a look! Come see what God is doing in the midst of things." And then we pray more will join the team. Please ask someone you know to step inside and SEE what God is doing to raise funds to spread His Word! We appreciate all that God is doing through Bible League International and you. Keep us in your prayers as the plow seems heavy in this environment; but we know God is greater and He helps us pull the yoke!



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

Kingdom *(continued from page 1)*

to be worshipped and served by His people. The work on the temple was to reinstall worship and service to the Lord. He wanted their hearts and minds to be focused on Him.

The people needed correction and encouragement from God to obey Him to finish the temple. "My Spirit is with you, so don't be afraid" (Haggai 2:5 ERV). Like the Israelites, we are too quickly distracted from Him, disturbed by what we see and hear around us. Our own interests often prevail.

In ministry, we are serving our Lord and Savior. We are partnering in building a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5 ERV). A house that will remain once the Lord shakes up the nations of this world. Our concern needs to be in alignment with His, the completion of the spiritual house, the saving of those who are still lost, the building of His Church, and the

faith and trust in Jesus and longing for eternity with Him.

Our concern is to glorify God. Do we see the potential for ministry in a troubled world? Are we willing to look at the circumstances and adapt so that we can participate in building the temple? I am increasingly amazed by the innovative drive of ministries and churches. We are working on customized training programs for the virtual world. We are connecting the League digitally through prayer and sharing. We have seen an uptick in the online use of God's Word. We increasingly engage donors online.

Circumstances change, methods change. Our focus on building the spiritual house should never change. Be encouraged! Do not be afraid but be thankful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Love Letters — TELL THE WORLD ABOUT JESUS

This year's letter shares the story of Richard in Ghana who ran away from home as a young boy. While living on the streets, the Lord reached him through a good friend and he gave his life to the Lord! Now Richard is dedicated to telling others about Jesus!

How does this fundraiser work? You can share the letter with others by placing one in each church mailbox or send it out to family and friends. Typically, your division leaders will have letters for you.

Or, you can request the letters from the home office. A compelling video about Richard is available. Connect with Deanna and she can provide a download link so you can share the short but compelling story at your church.



bibleleague.org/volunteer-resources

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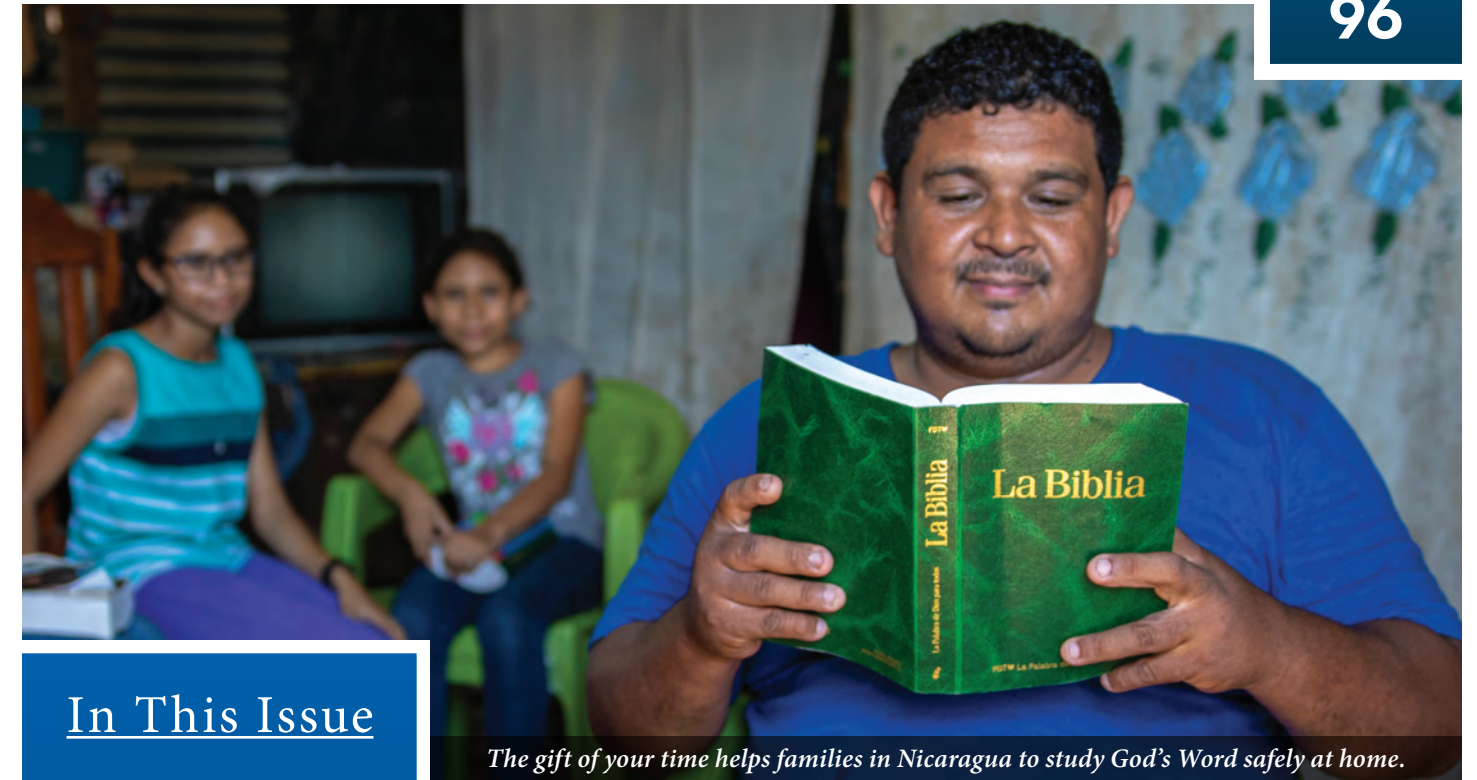
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VolunteerVoice

BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD

WINTER
2020

ISSUE
96



The gift of your time helps families in Nicaragua to study God's Word safely at home.

In This Issue

1-2 VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy an update on Volunteer activities—and what's on the horizon.

2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

5 THE CALLING

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



A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken

by Jos Snoep, Bible League International

"Once again, I will shake the earth, but I will also shake heaven" (Hebrews 12:26 ERV). The writer of Hebrews cites a word from the prophet Haggai to indicate the difference between what will be removed and what will remain. "We have a kingdom that cannot be shaken" (Hebrews 12:28 ERV). No oppressor, earthly king, pandemic, persecution—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Haggai speaks the word of the Lord as an encouragement to the people of Israel. The Israelites were investing in their own houses and had not even begun to work on the temple. The Lord speaks through Haggai and reminds them of the desire of the Lord

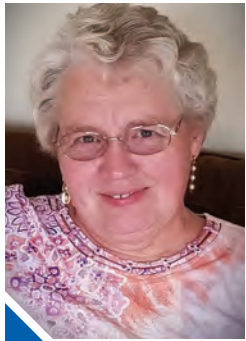
Continued on page 6

Valued Volunteers *by Joanne Marvin*

I'm writing this the week after our first virtual board meeting. For many of us this was a real learning adventure. We did have a practice meeting that helped to settle some of our nerves. But we can all be thankful to God for this modern technology. I am also thankful to the many first-time attendees and, as I stated, hopefully we can meet in person at one of our future meetings.

During our meeting, we heard from Lillian in Kenya. She was very enlightening and inspiring. The Church in Kenya is growing steadily even through this time of COVID.

Continued on page 2



Joanne Marvin
Executive Board President
Bible League Volunteers

This growth is possible because of our prayers and fundraising. Praise God! For this I am thankful. Just think of meeting our brothers and sisters some day in heaven, what a blessing that will be.

We heard from several of the staff from the main office. As always, they gave some inspiring and uplifting messages. Andrew told us about a new project called “Light of the World.” This is a great program for Sunday School, Gems, Cadets, and even Christian schools in your area. The children are encouraged to save monies which will provide Bibles for other children around the world. The Bible bank illustrates the Children’s Bible from Bible League. For more information about this, you can go to bibleleague.org/lotw or get in touch with Andrew.

Later we saw two different videos. The first one was of the Red Book, which was also referenced in our love letters last year. It told how the chief of the Maasai people in southern Kenya dreamed, “A Red book is coming so powerful it overcomes my powers.” This video can be seen on the Bible League website if you missed it. The other video is new—a story about Richard in Ghana. Our new love letter features his story. It is a great video that you can show at your church. Connect with Deanna for the video. With your help in educating your congregations about the people across Ghana, they will hear the Good News of salvation.

Each of us is to pray for opportunities to encourage our churches. Educate others about the outreach of Bible League around the world and at home. The third thing we are to do is fundraise. Our goal for this year again is \$400,000. We are thankful for the 65% which was raised this past year, even though many of our events were canceled. We can give thanks to God for this also.



EventsCalendar

April 21 — National Board Meeting

Thank you to those who participated in our October virtual Board meeting. Congratulations to Joanne Marvin and Sherri Ten Napel for being elected for another term of service on the BLV Executive Board!

(If you were not able to participate in the meeting, connect with your Division leader to get the inside scoop.)

April 21, 2021, is our Spring meeting. Block your calendar now and join us for exclusive ministry updates and tools that will help fulfill our calling to pray, educate, and fundraise. We can be part of building God’s Kingdom!

Fall Conferences 2021

The key note 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.

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>.

Spreading the
Fragrance of Life



Please submit your articles for the next newsletter by 1/29/2021

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



PRAYER

There are two areas of prayer engagement with the Volunteers. The first is a bi-weekly prayer email. Judy sends an email to 53 people committed to this prayer ministry.

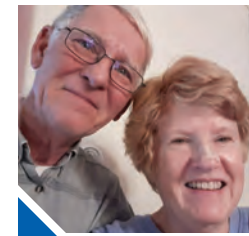
We encourage personal prayer requests from all Volunteers. So if there is a personal request you would like us to share, we would be happy to include it. Part of our calling is to also share the burdens of your church. So, as requests arise for your church, let us know so we can include that as well. Feel free to be as vague or specific as appropriate for sharing. Also included in this bi-weekly prayer email is a specific ministry prayer request from each region of the world.

The second area of prayer engagement for the Volunteers is the crisis prayer ministry that started in April in response to the pandemic. At the bottom of the Verse of the Day devotion, we provide an opportunity for people around the world to write us with their special requests. Since April, we have received about 1,500 requests. We have 11 active prayer warriors who are committed to praying over these requests. It is a blessing not only for the people in crisis to have that prayer support, but also a blessing for the Volunteers who feel privileged to stand in the gap for others. One Volunteer shared, “We likely think about the effectiveness of prayer, but those who have been blessed by it realize its power.”

If you would like to be part of either the bi-weekly prayer email or the crisis prayer ministry, please let Judy or Deanna know. It is a vital ministry that bears much fruit.



EDUCATION



Jerry and
Nancy Dykstra
Education Coordinators

We visited Covenant Presbyterian Church in Holland, Michigan, at the end of March when the virus was just starting and things were shutting down. We showed “The Red Book” story and then Jerry thanked the congregation for their prayers and financial support. I shared some statistics from 2019. We had a table set up in the narthex and passed out some information about Bible League and talked with some of the folks there.

We planned a visit to Lake Area Christian School in Nottawa, Michigan, at the end of April, but that had to be canceled. I spoke with the secretary there and, unfortunately, they are still unable to have us visit. We will try again next spring.

We had another visit to Covenant Presbyterian in October where we, again, displayed Bible League information and shared with folks. Bookmarks are a big hit with children!

We are available to speak at churches in Southwest Michigan or Northern Indiana. Please contact us or Bible League—we would love to visit!



FUNDRAISING

Here are some great fundraising ideas for you. Please share your ideas too!

Millions of kids around the world don’t have access to God’s Word. *The Light of the World* adventure, a five-week

project, will encourage kids in your area to raise funds to spread the news of Jesus. The goal of this project is to raise money for under-resourced churches, and also to cultivate a heart of generosity and stewardship in kids. Jesus said we are the light of the world, and to let our lights shine to others, so let’s shine our lights! Great stories are coming out of this adventure. One local Northwest Indiana Christian school did it as a five-day project and raised \$7,000!

bibleleague.org/lotw



Bible League Action Podcast



Join host Michael Woolworth of Bible League International and December’s special guest, Lillian from East Africa. As you listen to the compelling story, 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.

bibleleague.org/action-podcast

2021 GOAL
\$400,000

Bible League Volunteer donations providing Bibles and training around the world as of 11/30/2020 are \$30,816 (8% of goal with 16.6% of fiscal year 2021 completed)