

## Greetings Everyone

It seems like yesterday that I was in the Bible League office meeting with some of the leadership of your Bible League Volunteers. It was fun to see all the ladies who shared their thrift center clothing purchases with the group. As the meeting transpired, everyone was thinking of the different ways we can reach people with the message of Christ on behalf of or through Bible League and how different events can bring people together to share the message. It is wonderful to hear stories that impact our understanding of how the Spirit works in lives here and especially hearing about the Red Book in Africa!

There truly is only one way in my opinion that moves us to take action, make this all work, and come together. As it says in 1 Corinthians, His love compels us! Everything in our flesh is contrary to wanting to do this. It's by His Spirit prompting us that we talk with a person or group. He moves us to care about reaching someone for the Lord. People need Him now more than ever.

Our Bibles for Missions Thrift Centers are doing a masterful job as a Bible League partner to raise more funds than ever. Yet, with the extra blessing comes a greater field to plow. So, as always, think of us as a partner with Bible League International. The harvest is coming; pray to the Lord of the harvest for more workers for our centers. Please pray for the leadership and volunteers to handle the daily tasks that literally pile up. Pray that the Lord will fill the gap with people that can come into our story and yours to help expand the kingdom and the Church.

We appreciate all of you in the marketplace. Please be a champion ambassador who helps educate the public about Bible League's partner, Bibles for Missions Thrift Centers. Have a blessed holiday with family and friends.



### BIBLES FOR MISSIONS THRIFT CENTERS

John Scafe  
National Director  
Bibles for Missions Thrift Centers

## It's Not About the Pies

Grace Walstra brought great leadership again to the DeMotte annual pie fundraiser in October with nearly 50 volunteers making 1,368 pies and raising more than \$12,500 for ministry!

But it's not just about making the pies. It is also two days of fellowship together where volunteers find keen opportunities to minister to one another—a listening ear, Christian encouragement, and joyful satisfaction in serving together. Some of the volunteers can no longer give to Bible League but support through service. And the added value is providing Scripture-engagement around the world!



Thank you  
DeMotte team!

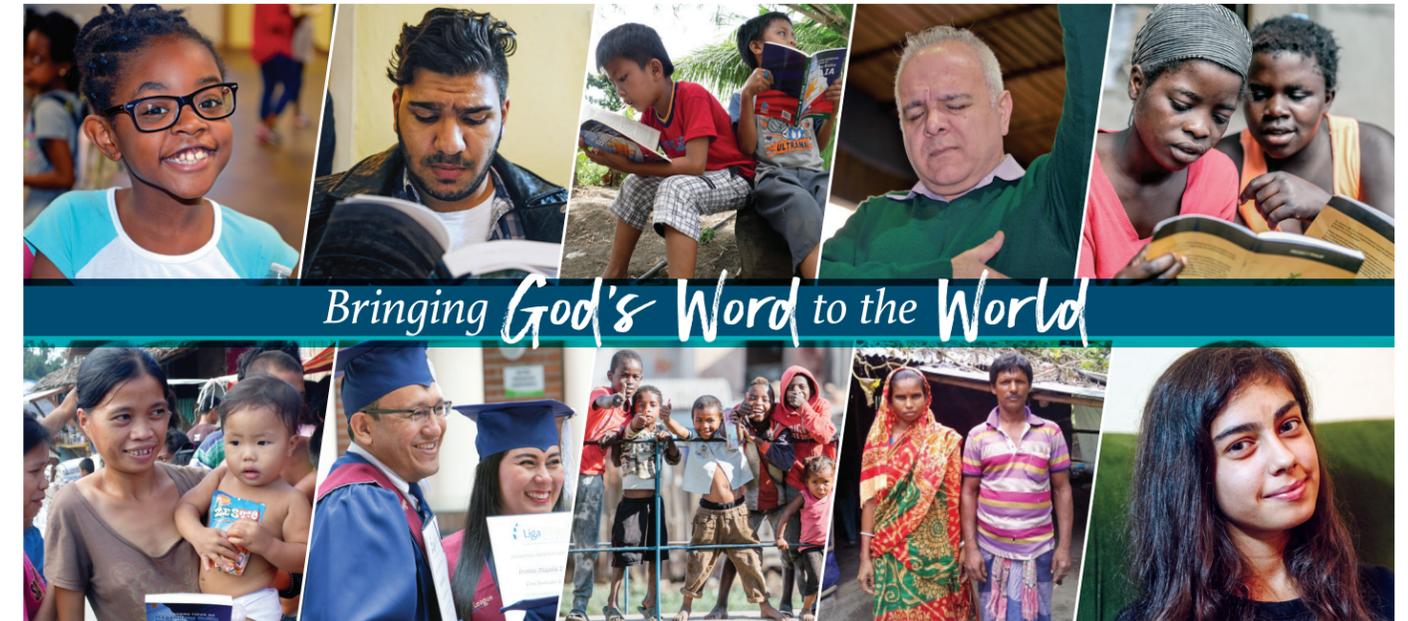


## Allocations

Bible League International strives to attain an overall program expense percentage of at least 70% for program expenses and less than 30% for overhead (administrative and fundraising) expenses. These goals allow us to maintain ministry impact from our program expenses while at the same time continually invest in critical infrastructure and stewardship needs to prepare for additional ministry growth.

It is worthy to note, as stated by the Presidents and CEOs of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar, and Charity Navigator, "...many charities should spend more on overhead. Overhead costs include important investments charities make to improve their work: investments in training, planning, evaluation, and internal systems—as well as their efforts to raise money so they can operate their programs. These expenses allow a charity to sustain itself (the way a family has to pay the electric bill) or to improve itself (the way a family might invest in college tuition)."

**THE 2020 PLANNED RATIOS ARE 76/24  
PROGRAM EXPENSE/SUPPORTING EXPENSE**



*Bringing God's Word to the World*

## Which Reality

Can you tell me what the following verses have in common?

- *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say rejoice!"*
- *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*
- *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

So, can you guess what these verses have in common? There are two. One is that all of these verses are found in Philippians 4, and two, these things were written from a prison cell by a man who had been repeatedly beaten, left for dead, and went from having a comfortable life as an emerging leader amongst the Jewish community to having nothing after he met Jesus on the way to Damascus.

How can Paul say these things after all he went through? If I get a papercut, I'm sometimes ready to throw in the towel.

The reason Paul could say these things is because he saw a truer and deeper reality than what was in front of him. He could have looked at his situation, focused on the chains, and given up, but we know that he didn't do that. He saw a greater reality and knew that the reason for his imprisonment served to advance the kingdom.

So, what reality are you living in? Do you feel like everything depends on you? Are you focused on things that, in two weeks, won't really make a difference? Or are you focused on Jesus? What if we asked ourselves that question every morning before we get out of bed? How would that change our day?

Can you imagine if we all did this as Christians? What would the world look like if we did?



Andrew Earnshaw  
Director of Partner Relations  
Bible League International

## Valued Volunteers



Joanne Marvin  
Executive Board President  
Bible League Volunteers

For those who were not at our fall national meeting, you missed some exciting information. In the morning, we heard from Jason Lauthers about his visit with Kenya's Maasai people. We learned how the Maasai chief of chiefs had a dream that "A red book is coming so powerful, it will overcome my powers." Little did he know that the Maasai language Bible has a red cover! Today the Maasai people are eager for that red book! This story is also shared in this year's love letters. See the video at [bibleleague.org/redbook](http://bibleleague.org/redbook).

Jos Snoep shared that Bible League International is now partnering with Prison Fellowship International. Ministry to inmates is happening right here in the U.S. and around the world. At a local prison, one individual who was scheduled for release from prison asked to stay to finish his training. Praise God!

On the business side, our fiscal year ended on September 30. The budget for 2019 was \$375,000; we raised 99.2% or \$371,836. Hallelujah, praise God! With this in mind, and through prayer, we agreed to increase the goal to raise \$400,000 for 2020. We must remember Numbers 11:23. Nothing is impossible. One initiative to help raise more

## A Can-Do Project

When leaving the Bible League Board meetings, I am challenged and inspired to again think how I could help with the fundraising that is so needed to supply Bibles and training. Although motivated, I also realistically know that once I return home, I will become instantly involved with the busyness of everyday life and work. So, after the 2018 spring meeting, I decided that I would donate the proceeds from the few returnable cans that were slowly collecting in my garage (Michigan has a bottle deposit law). I was thrilled when I finally reached \$5.00 and decided that I needed a name for my "project." I thought a good name would be "BL for BL" (because I was collecting mostly Bud Light cans along the road). Later, when I told my co-workers and friends about my venture, several said that I could have the cans from their offices, and some said that I could have the cans that they had at home. Word spread and now I have an established "can pick-up" route. One Sunday



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US  
APRIL 14-15  
BLV SPRING BOARD MEETING  
BIBLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL, CRETE, IL**

ministry funds is through the monthly partner program. If your division code is put on the monthly partner form, your division will receive credit. You can find your division code in this newsletter issue.

Bible League International is on social media—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. And by subscribing to Bible League's email, you will get the latest info on how your support is helping change lives.

Much more information was discussed at our open table discussions. The fellowship together was also very encouraging and uplifting. I hope to see you at the next meeting on April 14 and 15 (Tuesday and Wednesday). Please make note of the change of days. Until then, let's continue to help transform lives through God's Word!

night, while waiting for our church service to begin, I was feeling discouraged with my slow collecting progress. That evening, we sang the song "Little Is Much When God Is in It." So, I continued my quest for returnable cans.

All of my "contributors" know that I am collecting to purchase Bibles. When I initially ask if they would like to donate their cans, I explain the work of Bible League International and why I am trying to raise funds. They are becoming acquainted with the work of Bible League—a bonus!

With a division that has few contact ladies in the churches, this is an easy project and does not require much effort. It can be done as a group project or individually. You, too, can purchase Bibles, 10 cents at a time. You will be happy to know that I have changed the name of my endeavor to: "A Can-Do Project."

-- Elaine Diemer, Northern Michigan

## Pray, Educate, Fundraise — Where is our focus?

The Volunteer Guidelines state that the mission of the Volunteers is to Pray, Educate, and Raise Funds. I love the order in which these three activities are listed. I must confess that when I was a Volunteer, I often had these reversed. My focus was on fundraising and I would forget the primary importance of prayer.

In my first year of employment here at Bible League, I have noticed a real increased emphasis on prayer. An official prayer team has been formed, and the prayer room upstairs is often occupied. There is a scheduled weekly prayer time, and there is a new monthly prayer calendar. I also share ministry requests in a bi-monthly prayer partner email.

Why is prayer so important for the ministry? The Bible verses that I thought about as I asked myself this question were these: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5 ESV). Also, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33 ESV).

Thank you for all your Volunteer efforts. In all our service may our focus begin with prayer.

-- Judy VanderWall

## God-Sized Goals—God-Sized Impact

At the fall Bible League Volunteer Board meeting, the group set the pace for God-size goals in 2020! The new fundraising goal has gone from \$375,000 in 2019 to \$400,000 in 2020. This will help feed the growing opportunities for Scripture engagement that knocks at the doors of our ministry partners. It's an exciting time for Volunteers to walk in step with what God is doing around the world! Pray for the Lord to reveal ways you can continue to help in this movement.

**A closer look...30 years of impact—cumulative 1989-2018**  
**54,615,570 people reached—3,999,643 people trained—71,542 churches planted**

At a glance, the numbers can feel overwhelming. But take a closer look, and you'll see that God truly is working in a powerful way through the gifts and prayers of Bible League friends. Here's a per day and per hour average breakdown that shows the power of God's Word...

	 People Reached	 People Trained	 Churches Planted
<b>Per Day</b> .....	4,988 .....	365 .....	Almost 7
<b>Per Hour</b> .....	208.....	15 .....	1 about every 3.5 hours

## Spreading the Fragrance of Life (in 2020)

- September 14-15** *Tri-State Conference* First Reformed Church in Sioux Center with special guest Kelli Gotthardt
- September 17** *Central Iowa Retreat* Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Pella with special guest Kelli Gotthardt
- September 19** *Chicagoland* Tentative Saturday brunch conference
- September 23** *Michigan Conference* Friendship CRC in Byron Center with special guest Lynn Wilder

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER BY 1/24/2020**

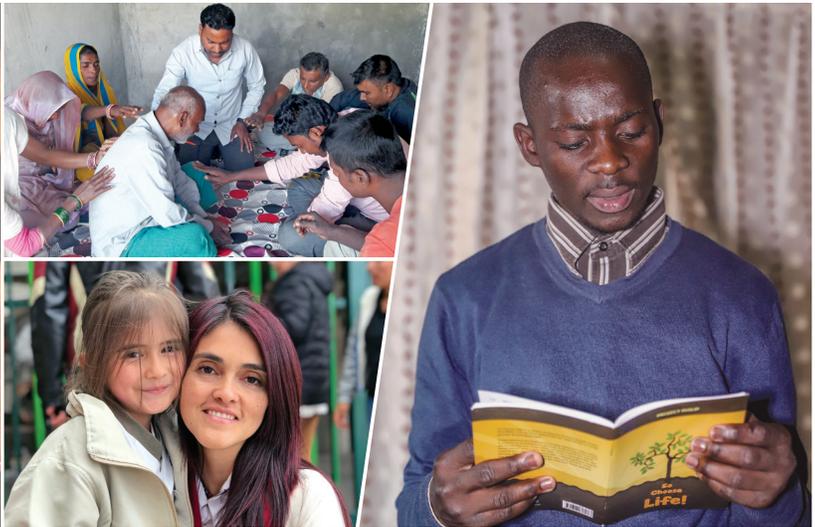
**496 CHURCHES  
22 DIVISIONS**

Central Valley California • Denver, CO • Southwest Florida • Chicago Southwest • Chicago West Suburban • Illiana, Chicago and Northwest Indiana • Central Iowa • Northwest Iowa • Newaygo County, MI • Grand Rapids North and South • Holland, MI • Kalamazoo, MI • Kenowa, MI • Muskegon, MI • Northern Michigan • Zeeland, MI • Southwest Minnesota • West Central Minnesota • South Central Montana • Northwest Washington • Wisconsin

### DIVISION AND RETREAT MOTIVATION CODES

Central IA IW015	GR South IW006	Muskegon IW011	SC Montana IW018	Zeeland IW025
Chicago SW IW002	Holland MI IW007	Newaygo County IW004	SW Florida IW003	Central IA Retreat IW000-000
Chicago West IW021	Illiana IW008	Northern MI IW013	SW Minnesota IW019	Michigan Conf IW000-001
Denver IW034	Kalamazoo IW009	NW Iowa IW014	WC Minnesota IW020	TriState Conf IW000-003
GR North IW005	Kenowa IW010	NW Washington IW031	Wisconsin IW022	Illiana Conf IW000-007

2020 MINISTRY IMPACT PLANS <b>WORLDWIDE</b>	
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GOD'S WORD	<b>2,798,673</b>
PEOPLE TRAINED TO SHARE GOD'S WORD	<b>124,596</b>
CHURCHES PLANTED	<b>2,303</b>
AFRICA · ASIA · EUROPE LATIN AMERICA · MIDDLE EAST · U.S.	



## Making a Global Reach for the Kingdom

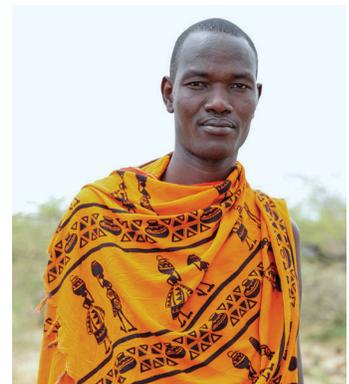
You are helping people around the world to be transformed and discover new life in Jesus Christ. Your gift of time ensures these ministries will be able to relaunch in Tajikistan of Central Asia. Bibles and training will also be available for the first time in Malawi, Brazil, Paraguay, and two new countries in the Middle East. Church Planter Training will be available for the first time in Argentina and Zambia. Prison ministry is also expanding into the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, and the Dominican Republic. Prisoners will be using *Project Philip* Bible studies to help their fellow inmates understand the Word of God so they can find true freedom in Jesus Christ. Your support ensures churches will be planted where needed most, and that new believers will be able to strengthen their faith. This is the eternal gift your commitment and hard work make possible. Thank you for being a blessing.

## God's Word Makes the Difference

Simon is a member of the Maasai, an indigenous people group living in East Africa. He wears the distinct Maasai shawls, the leso, and the red shuka. Members of this tribe are known for their towering stature and unyielding bravery. Simon, a community and youth leader, embodies these traits in both his appearance and personality.

He is one of 16 children, and he and his family in Kenya are believers. When *Project Philip* Bible studies became available at their church, he signed up immediately. "I embraced the Bible study program because it has quality teachings based on the Word of God," he explains. "We had four booklets, two of them written in the local 'Ma' language. The materials helped us interact with the Word of God and gave us revelation into what Scriptures mean. We now have a better understanding of the Bible than ever before."

Simon reports one of the greatest benefits of the training is the transformation that happened within his own family. "There were some excerpts that helped us understand that the challenges we went through as a family were not just something we alone were going through," he says softly. "We saw that Christians throughout the world faced similar challenges. Through these stories, we found that the challenges related to Christianity aren't only those found in the Bible, but also in everyday life." Simon emphasizes how these materials are making a positive impact on Christian life in his community. He beams, "The greatest need in this community was owning a Bible, and now almost everyone in my church now has one. You have filled a major need here!"



*A Global Reach for the Kingdom*

## Prayer Requests

- Praise our heavenly Father for the *Project Philip* training going on in the U.S. among Haitians, Togolese, and Ghanaian believers in Virginia and Georgia. May God strengthen them to share the Gospel with boldness.
- Please unite in prayer for the first Bible-based Literacy teachers' training in English taking place in the Middle East. May God's Church grow and spread throughout this new opportunity.
- Philips (*Project Philip* Bible study leaders) are completing their training in Nicaragua's capital, Managua. Pray that many lives will change through the power of God's Word as they spread the Good News to their friends, families, and neighbors.
- Pray that barriers hindering ministry in Armenia will be broken down. Believers here are facing challenges related to leading *Project Philip* Bible studies for children in schools. Ask the Lord for grace as meetings with officials begin to determine whether more kids can hear the Gospel and study God's Word. Also pray for the believers who finished the final module of Church Planter Training in this country. May God keep them encouraged as they reach out to their communities with the hope of the Gospel.



## Be Part of Making a Lasting Difference in Lives

When you join hands with the Bible League Volunteers to provide Bibles and training worldwide—and to pray—you will help make *A Global Reach for the Kingdom*. By God's grace and the power of His Word, each \$5 Bible you provide today has the power to transform a life. A family. A community. And as lives are transformed, God's Church will grow—on a global scale! You will help make disciples around the world, just as Jesus commands. Thank you!

## Where We Serve

AFRICA • ASIA • EUROPE • LATIN AMERICA • MIDDLE EAST • U.S.



Bible League International is focused and faithful in our mission, strategically positioned to provide God's Word to the under-resourced Church globally, and eager to see God's living and active Word accomplish His purpose.

Please share this Bible League International news with your church!

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