



## In This Issue

### 2 VALUED VOLUNTEERS

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

### 2 BLESSINGS OVERFLOW

God's blessings poured out Newaygo County, Michigan fundraiser

### 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Find out what's going on and all the amazing opportunities to serve!

## The Calling Endures *by Rob Bullock*

*I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 2 Timothy 1:5 NIV*

When I meet Bible League's long-time supporters—Volunteers, donors, and other friends—I love to ask how they first got connected to the ministry. Some remember having heard about Bible League at church. Others may have heard about it on the radio or read about it in a church publication. But the answer I hear most—especially from Volunteers—is “my mother got me involved.”

This is a beautiful testament to the influence mothers have in planting the seeds of faith and service in their children. Mothers, grandmothers, “church ladies” of all

*Continued on page 6*

## Why We Pray *by Sylvia Hoksbergen and Marlene Dykstra*

*“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” James 5:16 KJV. You may know this version of that verse. But today we can also read it from the ESV, “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” Don't you love that? It is so clear, and what a promise!*

Have you ever noticed how often missionaries mention prayer in their letters?

*Continued on page 2*



PRAY



EDUCATE



RAISE FUNDS



**Joanne Marvin**  
Executive Board President  
Bible League Volunteers

***Our motto for Volunteers of Bible League is to pray, educate, and raise funds.***

**Education.** When we educate, we give intellectual and moral instruction on a subject. Another way of saying it is giving training in or information on a particular field of interest. This education of training is also told to us in Proverbs 22:6; many of us learned this verse in Sunday School or grade school.

As Key Contacts, this is our task. If you are not comfortable speaking in front of a group, one way to educate is through the printed materials made available for you. You can receive information from the office any time or online to share with your church and community. Every quarter, we provide the Volunteer Voice, and you can share portions of this by just reprinting (copying). Another great piece is the Action Report—again you can copy and share portions. You can order materials ahead of time to pick up when you attend the Spring and/or Fall National meetings. Some items are also available at the Fall Retreat Conferences.

As Key Contacts and Daughters of God, how are you doing your training for Bible League? I am praying we all continue to share about ministry on behalf of our brothers and sisters worldwide.

## Why We Pray *(continued from page 1)*

Almost always before support, they list prayer. They know they need that power to make their work effective for Christ's kingdom.

Recently a young missionary in our area was denied a visa renewal and was sent out of the country she had served for a year. She had to begin again the process of getting a new visa in the U.S. After the criminal check, fingerprints, and finally a grueling hour and a half interview, she was told she must provide more information. "By the way," she was told, "even if that looks good, you have a 90% chance of being turned down." She went home to request prayers, and many, many prayers were prayed on her behalf. A week later, on the day before Thanksgiving, she received a call that her visa was granted. Sure enough, it arrived in

the mail the next day. God can do wonders working with just 10% when it is covered by the prayers of His people.

Why do we pray? God loves to hear our prayers: "...*the prayer of the upright pleases him*" Proverbs 15:8 NIV. And He works through our prayers: "...*God cares about what we say*" 1 John 5:14 ERV. That is why we pray!

Your prayers are requested and needed to keep Bible League International bringing in the harvest for God's kingdom.

Don't feel righteous enough for God to use? Through Christ we are righteous in God's sight. So PRAY and SEE GOD WORK.

*Sylvia Hoksbergen and Marlene Dykstra*  
Central Iowa Division

## 2020 Is the #YearOfTheBible

Join a movement of people around the world who find their 20/20 vision from the Word of God. And encourage everyone around you—let this be the year when the Bible takes on top importance in a believer's life.

*If you would like to learn more, please visit:*  
[yearofthebible.com](http://yearofthebible.com)



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

**Bible League Volunteer donations providing Bibles and training around the world as of 2/29/2020 are \$145,634 (36.4% of goal with 41.6% of fiscal year 2020 completed)**

# A Global Reach for the Kingdom



2020

WORLDWIDE  
MINISTRY  
IMPACT PLANS



People Engaged  
in God's Word  
**2,798,673**



People Trained to  
share God's Word  
**124,596**



Churches Planted  
**2,303**

## Making a Global Reach for the Kingdom

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world came to faith in Christ through the work and witness of faithful church planters last year. You helped make this possible. Thanks to your commitment to spreading God's Word, believers in areas of the world without a church presence had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Men, women, children, and youth, including prisoners, are now helping others engage in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, growing God's Church across the globe. Thanks to the gift of your time, Church Planter Training is available for the first time in Argentina and Zambia this year. You've also equipped church leaders to identify other potential church planters in their communities as they hone their church leadership skills. Your support is making a difference for generations to come.

## God's Word Makes the Difference

Thanduxolo, 27, (pictured) is a member of the Xhosa tribe. He was raised in Mthatha, in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. He admits he was once quite the rebel. "For us typical rural boys, we hunted rabbits and bucks, and we tilled the land," he remembers. "We never went to school at all."

Like many impoverished parents in his community, Thanduxolo's parents could not afford to send their children to school. They often went to bed hungry. "At night, after making sure our livestock were safely locked in their pen, I would steal food from our neighbors. There was nothing to eat at home," he says softly. Thanduxolo was eventually caught for stealing and sent to prison. Then tragedy struck. His father died of a heart attack. Not long after that, his mother was killed in a traffic accident.

Once released, he felt ready for a fresh start. He found a job as a taxi driver. An older man mentored him, sensing he could use some guidance. He taught him to read and to write. "He prayed for me and led me to the Lord,"

*Continued on next page*



# The Difference *(continued)*

Thanduxolo beams. “Once I started going to church, I was introduced to a wonderful Bible study program called *Project Philip*. This brought a complete turnaround in my life.”

He also got engaged. “It is wonderful to serve the Lord together,” he affirms. “My fiancée and I are running the *Project Philip* Bible study for youth at our church!” Thanduxolo goes on to express his gratitude for “such powerful, God-inspired, Spirit-filled, life-changing, Bible-based programs as *Project Philip*.”

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the new *Project Philip* Bible study in Kënetë, Albania. May many people join the study and engage in God’s Word despite strong Islamic pressure there.
- Ask God to bless 24 believers beginning their Church Planter Training in an eastern city in Bangladesh.
- May the Lord guide and protect pastors in a northern state in India as they have been experiencing persecution and opposition for a long time. More than 100 believers have stopped going to church because of it. Pray for restoration, encouragement, and strength in these times of fear.
- Please join in prayer for the upcoming Church Planter Training class in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. May the Lord prepare the hearts of the 30 leaders who will attend.

## Be Part of Making a Lasting Difference in Lives

When you join hands with 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!



Faithfully serving nearly  
50 countries worldwide



Serving the under-resourced Church with Bibles and training to transform lives worldwide through God’s Word.



PLEASE SHARE  
THIS BIBLE LEAGUE  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS  
WITH YOUR CHURCH!

**JOANNE MARVIN:** Bible League Volunteer Executive Board President  
616.877.5065 • pauljoannemarvin@gmail.com • bibleleague.org/volunteer-resources

**ANDREW EARNSHAW:** Director of Partner Relations, Bible League International  
708.367.8732 • aearnshaw@bibleleague.org • bibleleague.org

**DEANNA VAN SWOL:** Advancement Specialist, Bible League International  
708.367.8541 • dvanswol@bibleleague.org • bibleleague.org

# Blessings Overflowing

A fundraiser was needed. The planning began with prayer and brainstorming for an event that would provide the opportunity to tell our story while fundraising, provide a service to others and would be fairly inexpensive to have. A garage sale. It would meet the criteria and utilize the expertise of many of our key contacts as well as being able to clear out clutter from our own homes and provide the same opportunity to others. The details were simple: needed was a garage, willing workers, the ability to utilize the free publicity for the current community yard sale promotion, and bulletin announcements requesting donations as well

as advertising it. By the volume of donations, many homes had significant reduction of unused items. “We need more space” was expressed with varying intensity by the workers but with gratitude and humor. A second garage held the overflow. Our efforts were blessed with \$752.00 income! That’s 150 Bibles. God blessed us with nice weather, willing workers, buyers, and interested people to hear about Bible League International and the eternal blessing of a Bible for \$5.00. “Next time, let’s use a gym.”

Jessie Rose  
Newaygo County, Michigan



## Events Calendar

### Annual Spring Luncheons will help raise funds for Scripture

- **Monday, March 23** Central Iowa Division — Luncheon with Special guest Dr. Brian McLemore, Bible League’s Executive Director of Translations
- **Thursday, April 17** Illiana Division — Fashion Show and Teibel’s luncheon
- **Thursday, April 23** Zeeland Division — Luncheon with special guest Mrs. Megan Rietman
- **Monday, May 4** Northwest Iowa Division — Luncheon at Faith CRC in Sioux Center

### Spring National Board Meeting

Volunteer updates, inside scoop, fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual inspiration.

(For Michigan bus transport, contact Joanne Marvin.) Please come! Talk to your Division President today to register.

- **Tuesday April 14** Dinner and Evening Project Session 5:00 to 7:30pm
- **Wednesday April 15** National Meeting 8:30am to 3:30 pm

### Fall Conference Events

- **September 14-15**  
**Tri-State Conference**  
Sioux Center, Iowa  
Kelli Gotthardt
- **September 17**  
**Central Iowa Retreat**  
Pella, Iowa  
Kelli Gotthardt
- **September 19**  
**Morning Brunch Conference**  
Crete, Illinois  
Lynn Wilder
- **September 23**  
**Michigan Conference**  
Byron Center, Michigan  
Lynn Wilder



**Kelli (Kredit) Gotthardt** has deep roots in Iowa. She authors the memoir, *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 following Christ, transformed by God’s Word. It is her passion to introduce people to the God of grace and to share the peace of a grace-filled life. Learn more about her ministry at [unveilingmormonism.com](http://unveilingmormonism.com).



**Thony Ronaldo** will inspire us at all four events. He is Bible League International’s national director in Indonesia, shining the Light in the darkness by providing Bibles and training for the life-transformation of communities across Indonesia.

Please submit your articles for the next newsletter by 4/24/2020

# Greetings and Blessings to You from

**BIBLES FOR MISSIONS  
THRIFT CENTERS**

*Look, winter is past, the rains have come and gone. The flowers are blooming in the fields.  
It's time to sing! Listen, the doves have returned.*

Song of Songs 2:11–12 (ERV)

You may ask, “John, we are not even out of winter yet, why this verse?” It is with expectation for God to do things I can’t. Are we ready to anticipate one season ending and another one beginning?

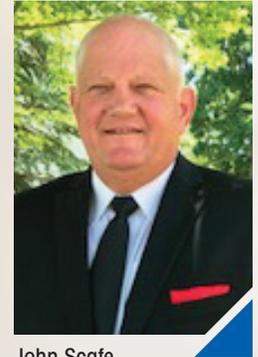
We are so blessed. Our new models and systems are working in the Thrift Centers beyond our expectations. In fact, last year alone for the first time with the 17 stores, we raised more than \$3 million for Scriptures and Bibles to go around the world. In the last decade, we raised over \$26 million! Praise God!

We are so thankful for partners like Bible League International that make our “Why” more explosive. It’s knowing that for every four

hours worked in our stores, those volunteers are sending out seven to nine Bibles!

If people in your church, neighborhoods, and schools can’t give money, tell them about giving time. Their time is valuable and worthy of spreading the Gospel message. Just have them step into our stores to see that the Lord has a place and a work for them to participate.

I pray this next decade will be more fruitful for the kingdom than any time previous. God is getting us ready—it’s a new season. Step out and step into a new story of helping people find Jesus and/or rekindle their first love with Him.



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

## The Calling Endures *(continued from page 1)*

varieties—all are essential to God’s work of sharing His Word and nurturing faith in Him.

The calling endures. Just as you have worked to instill faith in your children and grandchildren, will you also share your love for God’s Word? What would need to happen for your daughters (or sons, or grandchildren) to also find a heart for service with Bible League?

Bible League has grown around the world through the passionate efforts of volunteers just like you. We are looking for ways to involve more and more people in the work. And we are very open to trying new things.

So, if you’ve ever heard yourself saying “if only we could...” please share your ideas. We would love to hear future generations testify to the ways their mothers and grandmothers introduced them to the ministry of Bible League.



**Rob Bullock**  
Executive Vice President  
of Advancement  
Bible League International

## Is This Really About the Mission?

Most people want to give themselves to a cause bigger than themselves. No cause is greater or more worthy than the mission of engaging people in God’s Word. It gives people the gift of truth. Let’s ask ourselves today—are the things we do as Bible League Volunteers serving that mission? Share your thoughts and ideas. We’d love to hear from you.

**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

**Andrew Earnshaw** 708.367.8732 • aearnshaw@bibleleague.org

**Deanna Van Swol** 08.367.8541 • dvanswol@bibleleague.org