



## ***God's Word to the World: Bibles for the Under-resourced Church*** **Fall 2020 Radio Campaign – Talking Points and Fast Facts**

Please encourage your on-air staff to use these talking points and fast facts compiled by Bible League International (BLI) during your station's radio campaign. Please note that BLI totals for 2019 are for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019.

### **Worldwide**

- In 2019, over 2.1 million people were reached with the Gospel by Bible League International in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and the U.S.
- More than 141,000 Christians worldwide were trained in 2019 to share God's Word
- Nearly 1,800 new churches were planted in 2019 by church planters using Bibles and training from Bible League. Over 11,500 people were trained as church planters worldwide.
- In 2019, nearly 50,000 people worldwide were given the gift of literacy by learning to read and write through Bible League International's Bible-based literacy program
- In our modern-era, 2019 was the most violent year for Christians worldwide
- Fewer than one in three people around the world has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- More than a quarter of the world's population is under the age of 14
- Two out of three illiterate adults worldwide are women
- Many new Christians today often begin their new life in Christ without a Bible
- The growth of God's Church is weakened by inadequate discipleship and leadership training
- Christians need God's Word to resist the pull of traditional religious beliefs, occult practices, secularism, materialism, and other influences
- Millions of believers suffer for following Jesus. Some face physical violence, while others are denied basic necessities, such as water, electricity, and financial support for schooling.
- The world population is nearly 8 billion. Of the 60 million people added annually, 90 percent are born in less developed countries where poverty is prominent.

## Africa

- Bible League's programs are active in 13 African countries – Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- People still live in the grips of witchcraft, ancestral spirit worship, and traditional religion
- Remote churches often advocate syncretism, a blend of Christian faith and pagan practices
- Islam is seeking to increase its footprint in many predominantly Christian countries in Africa
- Africa is the world's second largest continent in land mass, as well as its second most populous
- Africa is a linguistically diverse continent, with more than 1,000 spoken languages
- Africa is the world's poorest, least-developed continent, and its population is youngest in the world
- HIV/AIDS, Ebola, plagues of locusts, and the Coronavirus pandemic this year have devastated the lives of many people across Africa, and leave millions of orphaned children in its wake
- Over 452,000 people have been reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- Nearly 13,000 believers in Africa were trained in 2019 to share God's Word

## Asia

- Bible League's programs are active in 11 Asia countries – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam
- More than one-half of the world's population lives in Asia
- Four in 5 people in Asia do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- The vast majority of people in Asia follow Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, or no religion at all
- Asia is a vast and diverse region with more than 2,000 languages spoken; China has 850 million speakers of Mandarin
- Believers in Asia are being persecuted because of their faith. Some face physical violence, while others are denied basic necessities, such as water, electricity, and financial support for schooling.
- More than 1,100 new churches in Asia were planted in 2019 by church planters using Bibles, Biblical resources and training from Bible League; over 5,600 people were trained as church planters
- Over 894,000 people have been reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- In 2019, more than 37,000 people in Asia were given the gift of literacy by learning to read and write through Bible League International's Bible-based literacy program

## Europe

- Bible League's programs are active in the European countries of Albania, Armenia, Russia and Tajikistan
- Evangelistic ministry is increasing in Europe, and many are making decisions to follow Jesus
- The religions of Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Islam are prevalent in Europe
- Remnants of Communist atheism remain strong in many European countries
- Persecution and poverty exist in remote areas
- Poor economies foster high crime and drug use among teens and adults
- Child labor is higher than 20% in some areas
- The materially poor suffer from effects of regional conflict, including terrorism, revolts and coups
- Over 72,000 people were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International in Europe
- 800 believers in Europe were trained to share the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International

## Latin America

- Bible League's programs are active in the Latin American countries of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela
- One in five Latin Americans in places like Argentina and Nicaragua lives in chronic poverty, meaning they are either born into it, or they are unable to escape it
- Millions in Latin America live on about \$2 per day
- Violence, drugs, and poverty are daily struggles for ministry in Latin American countries, such as Columbia and Venezuela
- More than one-fourth of the population in Latin America is under the age of 15
- Many of those trained by Bible League International's *Project Philip* to share Christ travel hours or days by foot, boat, or mule to lead Bible studies in places like Chile, Peru and Argentina
- Over the past year, Bible League International's Church Planter Training has helped plant more than 500 churches in Latin America
- More than 63,000 believers in Latin America were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel
- Over 523,000 people were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League

## **Middle East**

- Bible League's programs are active in these Middle East countries – Egypt, Iraq/Kurdistan, Jordan, Lebanon, South Sudan, Syria and three countries we do not name for security reasons
- Christians make up less than 5 percent of the population in the Middle East; in most countries, the Muslim majority comprises more than 90 percent of the population
- Displaying a Bible is against the law in several countries in the region
- Refugees and internally displaced people now number in the tens of millions
- Extreme poverty and majority religions oppress those in need of the Gospel in larger cities
- Lack of education, terrorism and poverty are obstacles to getting the Bible to Middle Easterners
- New believers are targeted for persecution by religious extremists
- Several countries are open to and encourage Christian ministry
- Over 167,000 people in the Middle East were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League
- In 2019, more than 1,100 people in the Middle East were given the gift of literacy by learning to read and write through Bible League International's Bible-based literacy program

## **United States**

- We are not focusing on the U.S. during this campaign