



## **“Open the Floodgates: Bibles for Africa” Spring 2021 Radio Campaign – Talking Points for Radio Stations**

Please encourage your on-air staff to use these talking points compiled by Bible League International (BLI) during your station’s “Open the Floodgates – Bibles for Africa” radio campaign. Please note that BLI totals for 2020 are for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

### **Africa – General:**

- Bible League International currently serves in 12 countries in Africa: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Bible League International programs include Project Philip Bible studies, Church Planter Training and Bible-based Literacy. Our ministry celebrates its 83rd anniversary in 2021.
- Over 427,000 people in Africa were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International. More than 11,000 Christians there were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip Bible studies. Nearly 200 new churches were planted in 2020 by church planters using Bibles and training from Bible League International.
- Over 1.3 billion people live in Africa. Christianity has grown from 10 million, or ten percent of the population in 1900, to 400 million today, or nearly two-thirds (63%) of the population.
- While Christianity is growing at an admirable rate here, millions of people in Africa do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Many follow pagan practices, Islam or no religion at all.
- Africa is a vast and diverse region with more than 2,100 languages spoken; God’s Word in printed form is available in about 300 of those languages
- Believers in Africa are being persecuted because of their faith. Some face physical violence, while others are denied basic necessities, such as water, electricity, and access to schooling.
- Many Christians in Africa today often begin their new life in Christ without a Bible because of oppression by governments and majority religions, poverty, remoteness and other factors
- It is vital that believers in the under-resourced Church receive Bibles and training to resist the pull of traditional religion beliefs, occult practices, materialism and other influences
- Church growth in Africa is weakened by inadequate discipleship and leadership training
- Hunger for God’s Word is increasing, especially among children and youth. With more than 250 million people in Africa between the ages of 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. The current trend indicates this figure will double by 2045.

## **Burundi**

- Over 80% of people in Burundi live in extreme poverty, often working as day laborers facing hard work and low wages
- Sixty percent of children under five years of age in Burundi live with chronic malnutrition
- Fewer than 20% of homes in Burundi have access to electricity
- About 25% of the population is evangelical Christian. Others follow traditional religion and Islam
- Over 11,000 people in Burundi were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- Pray that those involved in BLI's Project Philip Bible studies will grow in their faith and share the Gospel with others

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

- The country of Democratic Republic of the Congo, known previously, as Zaire, is home to 87 million people, making it the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa and second largest on the continent
- Evangelical Christians make up about 30 percent of the population
- Bible League International began ministry in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2020

## **Ethiopia**

- Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa, is the continent's second most populated country with 100 million people
- Forty percent of the population is under the age of 15
- Evangelical Christians make up 20% of the population in Ethiopia; 35% follow Islam
- More than 1 million Ethiopians died during the country's severe drought and famine in 1984
- Over 24,000 people in Ethiopia were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- More than 400 Christians in Ethiopia were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip Bible studies

## **Ghana**

- Ghana, located just north of the Equator in western Africa, has a population of 27 million
- There are approximately 6 million Christians in Ghana

- Twenty-five percent of Ghanaians follow Islam; witchcraft and ancestral worship are prominent
- More than 72,000 adults, children and inmates in Ghana were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- Nearly 1,300 Christians in Ghana were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip Bible studies
- More than 50 new churches in Ghana were planted in 2020 by church planters using Bibles and training from Bible League International

### Kenya

- Kenya has a population of 48 million people
- One-half of the population lives in poverty, and 75 percent live in rural areas.
- Swahili and English are the two prominent languages spoken in Kenya
- There are approximately 15 million Christians in Kenya; others follow Islam and pagan practices
- The northern parts of Kenya are currently experiencing a drought and famine, causing food insecurity, limited supplies of clean drinking water, and cholera outbreaks
- Nearly 80,000 adults, youth and inmates in Kenya were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- 900 Christians in Kenya were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip studies

### Malawi

- Malawi is located in southeastern Africa and has a population of 18 million people
- As one of the world's least-developed countries, Malawi has a low life expectancy and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS; eight of 10 people live in rural areas
- Bible League International began ministry in Malawi in 2020
- Pray that those involved in BLI's Project Philip Bible studies will grow in their faith

### Mozambique

- Mozambique has a population of 29 million
- Two thirds of the population are under 25 years of age. Forty percent of the population is illiterate.

- Christians make up less than 10 percent of population; others follow Islam, animism and traditional religious beliefs
- More than 50 languages are spoken; prominent languages are Portuguese, Swahili and Tsonga
- Over 33,000 adults, youth and inmates in Mozambique were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- Nearly 50 new churches in Mozambique were planted in 2020 by church planters using Bibles and training from Bible League International

### **Rwanda**

- Rwanda is one of the smallest countries in Africa with a population of nearly 13 million people, located in the famous Great Rift Valley near the African Great Lakes region
- The economy of Rwanda suffered heavily during the country's 1994 genocide, in which Hutu extremists killed nearly one million members of the Tutsi people group and dissenting Hutus
- Evangelical Christians make up about 40 percent of the population
- Bible League International began ministry in Rwanda in 2020

### **South Africa**

- The country of South Africa has a population of 56 million people
- Extreme poverty is evident with 25 percent unemployed. One in 10 adults cannot read or write.
- Over 7 million adults live with HIV/AIDS, the highest rate for a single country in the world. As a result of HIV/AIDS and other factors, there are approximately 1.2 million orphans in South Africa.
- South Africa's history includes apartheid, or racial segregation, from 1948 to 1991, resulting in widespread violence and the 30-year imprisonment of activist Nelson Mandela
- There are approximately 12 million Christians in South Africa. Others follow traditional African beliefs, and as many as 15% of the population has no religious affiliation.
- Over 55,000 people in South Africa were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- Nearly 1,000 Christians in South Africa were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip Bible studies

## **Tanzania**

- Tanzania has a population of 56 million, and more 100 languages are spoken here
- There are fewer than 10 million Christians in Tanzania; 35% of the population follows Islam
- Tanzania is home to Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain range in Africa, tropical islands and Serengeti National Park, a reserve renowned for elephants, lions, leopards and rhinos
- Extreme poverty is evident here; 60% of Tanzanians live on about \$1/day.
- More than 47,000 people in Tanzania were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- Nearly 2,200 Christians in Tanzania were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip Bible studies

## **Zambia**

- Zambia's population is 16 million; there are approximately four million Christians here
- Zambia's heavy rain season makes roads impassable and sharing the Gospel challenging
- Eighty percent of the population in Zambia live rurally; 40% of adults cannot read or write
- Over 86,000 adults, youth and inmates in Zambia were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- More than 4,900 Christians in Zambia were trained in 2020 to share the Gospel through Project Philip Bible studies
- Over 600 people in Zambia were trained in 2020 to teach Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy program

## **Zimbabwe**

- Zimbabwe has a population of 13 million people; the Shona tribe is the largest ethnic group
- Zimbabwe has one of the world's lowest life expectancies; 10% of adults are infected with HIV/AIDS
- There are approximately 4 million Christians here; others follow ancestral worship and Islam
- Nearly 15,000 people in Zimbabwe were reached with the Gospel in 2020 by Bible League International
- Nearly 50 new churches in Zimbabwe were planted in 2020 by church planters using Bibles and training from Bible League International