



Thank you for helping spread hope to people around the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit, these young girls in Armenia are learning to follow Christ and study God's Word.

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Serving Together *by Sherri Ten Napel, AEB President*

Since Bible League began 85 years ago, nearly 1 billion copies of God's Word have touched the hearts of people worldwide! I wonder if founder, William Chapman, had any idea that his call to sow the seed of the Gospel to the world would be this massive. There is a large painting at the entrance of Bible League headquarters created and donated by painter Hyatt Moore called, "The Sower, the Symbol of Bible League." "They grow and produce a good crop, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more and sometimes 30 times more" Matthew 13:23 ERV.

"The sower is the human instrument God uses to make this ministry successful throughout the world." William Chapman, Excerpt from *The Story Without an End*.

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Global Partners' Conference—Bangkok

by Rob Bullock, Executive Vice President of Advancement, Bible League International

Unity. Unity in mission, in purpose, in calling. This was the overwhelming sense from Bible League's Global Partner Conference, held October 30-November 3 in Bangkok, Thailand. Nearly 140 leaders from 44 countries joined for worship, Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and discussion of Bible League's future direction.

The conference opened with a vibrant ministry fair where teams showcased their countries' food, culture, and ministry approach. This was a great opportunity to meet everyone quickly and reconnect with old friends.

Dependence on God, Servantship, Partnership, and Celebrating Ministry Impact

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Serving Together *(continued from page 1)*



Sherri Ten Napel
AEB President
Bible League Volunteers

In a recent study of John 4:35-42, God's harvest is explained. He planted His spiritual seed in the Samaritan woman, who in turn, told her entire village who also became believers. My notes say, "The harvest of a soul for Christ often incorporates the investments of many people. The teamwork and collaboration among God's people allow sower and reaper to rejoice when God's kingdom advances." We are privileged to be part of such an astounding team. We need to share Bible League with others so they catch our enthusiasm for sharing the Good News around the world.

In this Advent season we are reminded of the angel's proclamation, "Glory to God in the Highest and peace on earth, good will to men." May we bring glory to our God, but where is the peace on earth? Oh, my! We have a long way to go! But we certainly can enjoy God's peace in our hearts; may we continue to tell the world about the peace that comes only from knowing and believing in Jesus Christ.

National Meeting Highlights (10/17-10/18) *by Dianne Bierma, AEB Secretary*

On Tuesday evening, 28 individuals toured the Bible League warehouse. It was good to see the operation and details that go into sending Scriptures around the world. The warehouse is managed by Brian Ayers and it is obvious he loves his work and takes pride in efficiency. We were blessed to see it firsthand.

We set the tone for Wednesday's meeting by singing songs about God's Word: *Thy Word*; *Holy Bible, Book Divine*; and *How Firm a Foundation*. The first order of business was to install Jill Fase as AEB Vice President and Dianne Bierma as AEB Secretary. Rob Bullock spoke about how people in the U.S. and around the world are craving God's Word. Materials are now printed in 53 languages!

AEB Officer reports included Sherri Ten Napel, president; Lavonne Gras, secretary; Carla Kooiman, treasurer; and Jill Fase, education coordinator.

We viewed an inspiring video related to the Love Letters. Maritza Martinez-Pereira and Jill Fase shared their experience on a trip to Zambia. One thing we came away with is: "Use what you have!" Maritza said Zambians have little, but they use what they have! Another trip is scheduled in February to the Philippines. All are welcome!

Jos Snoep closed our meeting with words from *The Story Without An End* that are true today. We don't know where God is leading but we know ministry starts with what He is doing.



Conference *(continued from page 1)*

were the themes for four main sessions. Daily Bible study/Scripture engagement sessions focused on Philippians 2, Matthew 20, and John 13. One whole day was devoted to prayer and worship—a highlight for sure.

For those gathered, it was a joy to hear video greetings and words of encouragement from the many Volunteer Ambassadors. Conference participants responded with a time of prayer for all those who help raise funds for Bible League's work around the world.

Those gathered had the opportunity to join a sight-seeing excursion which gave more time for building relationships.



This was the first time since 2018 that Bible League ministry partners from around the globe gathered in one place, and the largest number of countries participating in many years. Please join us in praying that the insights, connections, and inspiration experienced there will propel ministry forward for years to come.

The Ambassador Calling



PRAYING



RAISING AWARENESS



RAISING FUNDS

PRAYING—A Command and Privilege

Lavonne Gras, AEB Representative

I love what The Heidelberg Catechism says about prayer in Lord's Day 45.

Question 116:

WHY DO CHRISTIANS NEED TO PRAY?

Answer: Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us...

Question 118:

WHAT DID GOD COMMAND US TO PRAY FOR?

Answer: Everything we need, spiritually and physically, as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord Himself taught us.

I also love this line in a well-loved hymn, "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

Prayer is a command, but it is also a privilege. We, as Ambassadors, have the privilege to pray for Bible League.

Ambassadors have two prayer ministry opportunities: the Crisis Prayer Ministry and Bi-Weekly Prayer Emails. We praise God for two new Bi-Weekly Prayer Email partners and five new Crisis Prayer Ministry partners. You may sign up with lavonnegras@yahoo.com, jvanderwall@bibleleague.org, or dvanswol@bibleleague.org. We'd love to have you join us, too!

RAISING AWARENESS

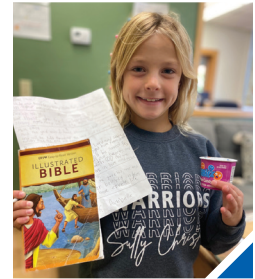
Jerry & Nancy Dykstra, AEB Awareness Coordinators

Jerry and I watched a Franklin Graham Crusade in Australia. We are reminded how simple the Gospel message is. And that leads me to the Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) Bible we encourage people to use. It is so easy to understand. We sent one to a friend who had questions about passages that were hard to understand from a Bible he received in 5th grade...60 years ago!

We'll begin contacting Christian schools in January to offer Bibles for graduates and other materials for lower grades. Sully Christian School takes part in our Bibles

for Students program. Teachers say, "We are grateful for the Bibles and the blessing they provide our students in the easy-to-read format. They are a great tool in teaching students to read the Bible in a way they can understand and find Scriptures."

Whether you're 17 or 70, the ERV Bible is God's Word you can turn to for answers, help, and encouragement. Sharing it with others is a blessing!



RAISING FUNDS

Carla Kooiman, AEB Treasurer

In John 21:17, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter responded, "Lord, you know that I love you." Then Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." The Gospel is the Bread of Life.

"Feed my sheep" was the theme for our National Ambassador Meeting. The Volunteer Market raised \$3,118. Through the work of Ambassadors, the opportunity to "feed" many people around the world and share God's Word has been given and accomplished. In FY2023, we reached 95% of the \$400,000 goal, which translates into 75,818 Bibles. Praise God!

Here are the results of a few efforts as Volunteer Ambassadors in FY2023: Special Events/fundraising \$66,000; Retreats/Conferences \$44,838; Love Letters \$41,632; church donations \$166,555.

We continue to thank God and His people for their generosity and gifts. Our Ambassador goal for 2024 is \$450,000. Our world is crying for the Bread of Life. Please pray with us to continue to share the Word of God for His glory and honor.

The Illiana Team in DeMotte raised funds again through Dutch Apple Pie sales.

More than \$13,000 was raised with the help of volunteers to prepare and sell the "best pies ever!" Great teamwork!

LOVE LETTER FUNDRAISER

This year, our letter and video highlight a story from South Africa. Prayerfully consider sharing this with church family, relatives, and friends. This is a good opportunity for others to be part of God's work.

February is a great month to promote the Love Letter since few fundraisers happen then. You can use the letters any time, but Valentine's Day is a great day to spread Jesus' love. Remember that this fundraiser is for our 2024 fiscal year—October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. **Here is a QR code to the video:**



Last time, I talked about change. Everything about Jesus is change! His blood REDEEMED us—that's change. He gave it all. In return, He asked us to be more like Him—more change. Are we closer to Him each

day...knowing Him...acting like Him? Volunteering is an expression of using our talents to please Him. As you read this, my prayer is—whether you volunteer for Bible League or Legacy Thrift—you make yourself available because of the change in your life through Jesus. As we enter the season of celebrating Jesus, may we lift our eyes to Him as the shepherds did!

Serve the Lord with gladness. Pray to the One who saves us from death. He IS the reason we do this work. By volunteering, we keep our priorities straight—we serve. Be humble. Act like Him (Acts 22:14).

Blessings to you, and please keep our Legacy Thrift Team in your prayers. –John Scafe, National Director, Legacy Thrift



Coming Events 2024

April 15-16: National Ambassador Meeting and Bible League Founder's Day Lunch

September Conferences: Byron Center, MI, the 6th • Sioux Center, IA, the 9th-10th • Pella, IA, the 12th • Chicagoland, the 14th

Sing Praise

The Bible shows we sing with our minds *and* our spirits.

1 Corinthians 14:15 ESV: *...I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.*

Ephesians 5:19 NKIV: *...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...*

This is the type of spiritual worship worthy of God, when we offer ourselves to Him as living sacrifices. In fact, scientists using MRI brain imaging found that music activates every part of our brains, including the parts responsible for our emotions, creativity, and motor skills. Music is a full body-spirit experience. Here are recent examples of Ambassadors bringing joy to others through music.

- Our Kalamazoo team hosted The Helmsmen in concert in September. Southern Gospel music brought delight and Rev. Wayne DeYoung shared about mission work.



- October saw a Good Ole Fashioned Hymn Sing with the help of our Newaygo County team. And the NW Iowa team arranged for four groups to perform a Night of Praise.
- In November, a Patriotic Hymn Sing was planned by the Grand Rapids South team featuring the Singing Hims and ministry presentation by Joanne Marvin, Jerry and Nancy Dykstra.

Spiritual songs, cider, bonbons, great fellowship—ask friends from these areas to tell you about it. Thank you all for ministering to your community through music as you raise funds to build the kingdom.

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Please submit your articles and photos for the next newsletter by 1/19/2024