

I wish we had some of that snow during Christmas, but on the other hand...the Lord was good to Legacy Thrift. We had one of our highest months of contributions going to the ministries we support. Everyone expresses to me that 2024 is a critical year—the election, the economy, and all the stuff that comes with it. I'd rather focus on doing our work unto the Lord and see and hear the results of God's hand and the Word moving in people's lives around the world. If you give your time and gifts to God, you will have more impact on the kingdom of God than you can imagine. In 2024, make yourself available and vulnerable to do more with God than ever before. He IS coming, you know! Trim the wicks, grab the oil, and be ready. Anticipate the movement of God on earth as it is in heaven. Pray we continue to stay faithful to that which He has called us. Together we can do more. Bless all your efforts to be pleasing in His eyes, according to His will, not ours. Receive the Lord's richest blessings and direction for 2024.



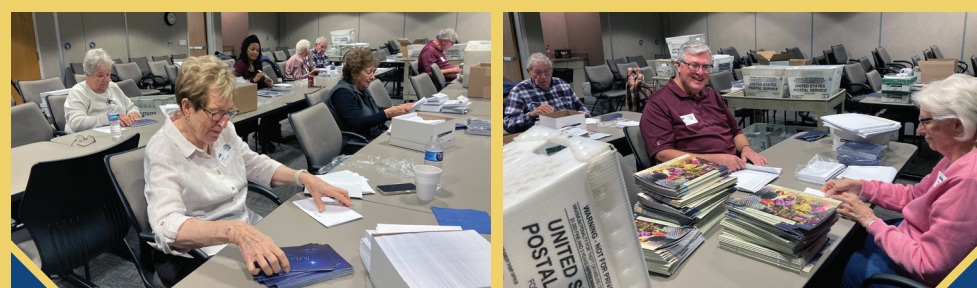
John Scafe
National Director, Legacy Thrift

Share the Word, Change a Heart *(continued from page 1)*

people who have lived in their community their whole lives about making a difference? So, with the pastor's permission, I asked the question, "Has anyone brought someone to Christ?" There was a long pause. Then a gentleman in the middle row rose and told us how his faith was tested during the Korean War—the only hope he knew was Jesus, and he shared that with his fellow soldiers. A woman stood and shared how as a Sunday School teacher she shared the Word and many kids accepted Jesus. That service became a time of testimony and remembrance. You could see the joy that the congregation experienced as they recalled how God used them. At the altar call (yes, they still had one), the pastor stood and challenged his congregation to "reach one more for the kingdom."

This dying church started to reach out to students at the elementary school with an after-school program. The ladies made snacks, the men led games, and they always shared the Word. In a short while, the impact was experienced. The church started to grow with young families. They celebrated when someone accepted Christ. And they remembered that God can use them to reach one more for Christ.

As a volunteer, you are using your gifts, skills, talents, and experiences for the kingdom. When you think 'I don't know if God is using me,' recall the time that God used you to reach someone for Christ and know that your job is not done yet—there is still one more to reach for Christ.



Our Helpful Volunteers

A sweet demonstration of Colossians 3:23: *Whatever you do...work as for the Lord.*

Bible League Volunteer Ambassador Executive Board (AEB)

- | | |
|---|---|
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| <i>Jill Fase, Vice President</i> | jillfase@gmail.com |
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BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD



Thank you for spreading hope around the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit, these children in Kenya are learning to follow Christ and study His Word.

In This Issue

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Updates on Ambassador activities and what's on the horizon.

2 AEB UPDATES

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2 COMING EVENTS

5 THE CALLING

Read how praying, raising awareness, and raising funds brings others to Jesus.

5 COLOMBIA TRIP

Check out this amazing opportunity to see God's hand at work in the field.

Serving Together *by Sherri Ten Napel, AEB President*

I saw a recent document on sharing God's Word in persecuted lands. It says, "People crave God's Word.

Local leaders report needing two to three times more Bibles and Bible study materials. That hunger is growing." This information comes from people knowing they will suffer for Christ and are willing to do so! Bible League has been preparing for this time with Bibles and study materials recently becoming available for children and adults translated in over 50 languages. This is an exciting time for Bible League with opportunities to share God's Word with the world! And we can be a part of that.

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Share the Word, Change a Heart

by Felix Mathew, Vice President of U.S. Church and Donor Relations, Bible League

Have you ever invited someone to accept Jesus Christ? Over my years as a pastor, I've had the honor and privilege of sharing the Good News, with some accepting Christ. As I moved into more Christian organizational roles, somehow, I lost the fervor of sharing the Gospel. I still served in the name of Jesus Christ but somewhere something was missing. Then I remembered my friend urging me to "reach one more for Christ."

Years back, I spoke at a rural church in Kansas where my friend was the pastor in a town of about 450 people. He asked me to lead a session on ways to grow a church in a rural community. I had a great time getting to know people, walking around town, and trying to learn what would make a difference for the church, the pastor, and the community. Sunday morning arrived, and as I looked at the congregation, I realized everyone there had probably heard my message at least a hundred times. What can you teach

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Serving Together *(continued from page 1)*



Sherri Ten Napel
AEB President
Bible League Volunteers

I have been asking people how many generations they think it takes for a tradition, a belief, or something of value to be forgotten. Some said three, some two, and most people thought one generation. From family devotions, church attendance, and knowledge of Bible League, family traditions and ministries that we have a passion for can quickly be forgotten. Are you sharing the children's Bible banks with your grandchildren and church? The Sunday School program in my church is using it, along with the stories that go with it. How are you passing on your spark?

The national meeting at Bible League headquarters for us Ambassadors is coming soon. Please consider coming! You will not be disappointed. The cost of travel and hotel can be covered for you, and you will be blessed beyond measure. While you're at it, invite a friend!

Spring Ambassador Meeting and AEB Updates

Review the enclosed invitation to the Spring National Volunteer Ambassador meeting. Please say yes and come!

Monday evening, April 15—Dinner and fellowship

Tuesday, April 16—Ambassador Vendor Market, encouragement, updates, and training, as well as our Founder's Day lunch and afternoon meeting with Bible League's Board of Directors and staff.

Ambassador Executive Board Update: Jill Fase continues as an education coordinator for schools, but we regret to share she is no longer able to serve as AEB Vice President. Therefore, during our spring meeting, the AEB will present a recommendation to change two Executive Board roles. The AEB will ask for a yes/no

vote on those appointments as well as a yes/no vote on the extension of terms for Lavonne. If you have comments, questions, or recommendations, please reach out to Sherri at dstennapel@hotmail.com or Deanna at dvenswol@bibleleague.org.

- Carla Kooiman—current AEB Treasurer, moving to the position of AEB Vice President, to step in and complete Jill's VP term ending September 30, 2025.
- Linda Visser—moving into the position of Treasurer, to step in and complete Carla's first 2-year term ending September 30, 2024.
- Lavonne Gras—second 2-year term as Representative ending September 30, 2026.

Coming Events 2024

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| March 21: Illiana Spring Luncheon featuring the Illiana Christian Jazz Band | April 15-16: Volunteer Ambassador National Meeting |
| April 8: Pella Spring Salad Luncheon
Cornerstone Church, Pella | May 6: NW IA Spring Luncheon |
| | June 26: Pella Summer Musical
Trinity Church, Pella |

September: Fall Conference Events. Mark your calendar! Tickets go on sale July 1. *Grit, Grip, and the Gospel.*

Quick to laugh, confident in our sovereign God, and empowering others in faith, Craig and Molly Sanborn are the keynote speakers for our conferences for men and women! Embark on a journey of laughter, tears, and resolve, drawing us closer to our heavenly Father. Also inspiring us is Santosh Chandran, Director for South Asia and Pacific ministry. Santy will give us the inside scoop on persecution and life transformation that is happening in that part of the world.

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| September 6: Byron Center, MI | Worship with recording artists, Mark & Elisabeth Sooy |
| September 7: Chicagoland/NW Indiana | Worship with singer/songwriter Caleb Dutton |
| September 9: Sioux Center, IA | Dinner with friends and Bible League staff and volunteers |
| September 10: Sioux Center, IA | Worship with concertmaster Jennifer Frens and others |
| September 12: Pella, IA | Praise team with Barbara Boertje DeVries and pianist Debbie Nelsona |

Please submit your articles and photos for the next newsletter by 4/19/2024

The Ambassador Calling



PRAYING



RAISING AWARENESS



RAISING FUNDS

Amazed by Crisis Prayer Team

This team is "on call" to pray for personal matters that arrive at Bible League from people in the U.S. and sometimes abroad. It was an afternoon of encouragement for them recently. Donor Relations Manager Alice Stewart strengthened everyone with God's Word and we had a blessed time praying together. During your own personal prayer time, please remember to pray for the 21 people on this team who go to the Throne of Grace on behalf of seriously hurting people. It's quite a ministry!

Radio

The past few months, Senior Director of Broadcast Media Michael Woolworth has been raising awareness about Scripture need and Bible League ministry through national radio stations. Maybe you heard Bible League featured on your local Christian station. It's exciting to share that many people are recognizing and responding to the urgent need for Scripture. More than 3,300 new donors joined us! We also praise God for volunteers who have come to help us put together their welcome packets!

Visitors Providing Bibles *(Deanna Van Swol)*

Crosspoint is my church home, and we have a big heart to reach people in Nepal with the Good News. So, we partner with Bible League in a unique way.

Did you know that believers in Nepal experience opposition resulting in false accusations, harassment, and beatings from families and communities? Christians can be ostracized and viewed as people who "destroy culture." Despite this, Nepalese believers know that the only true hope is in Jesus Christ. In order to reveal God's love and compassion in their communities, access to His Word is vital.

When someone new visits our church, we do not give them a mug, or a hat, or a book...we donate a Bible to Nepal in their name. Last year, my church donated money for Bibles accompanied by 51 signed Bible bookplate stickers.

It's a meaningful thing for new church visitors. Maybe this is something your church can do, too!

A Little Stamp

Most of you have had a hand in this bounty! When business reply envelopes arrive with a postage stamp on the "no postage necessary" square, Bible League submits that to the post office for a postage refund. In 2023, we submitted enough of those stamped envelopes to our post office to receive more than \$12,170! **PRAISE GOD! And, thank you!**



Experience Bible League's Ministry in Colombia

August 11-17, 2024 | Bogotá, Soacha, Zipaquirá, Nemocón, Mosquera



Yes, you will see the beauty of God's creation in Colombia. But you'll also see how God is working in the hearts and lives of people there. Vibrant and joyous worship; encouraging believers in the faith; witnessing life transformation—what a blessing!

There is a lot of interest in this ministry trip but the registration is limited to 14 people. So, I encourage you to sign up soon!

Cost is \$2,000. This includes food, lodging, and activities in Colombia. This does not include your flight cost. There are two payment options:

1. April 15: \$250 deposit • June 10: \$1,750 final payment, or
2. June 10: \$2,000



Follow the QR code or go to bibleleague.org/colombiatrip for information and registration.