



## **“Open the Floodgates – Bibles for Africa” Spring 2018 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.

### **Africa – General:**

- Bible League International currently serves in 11 countries in Africa: Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Bible League International programs include Project Philip Bible studies, Church Planter Training and Bible-based Literacy. Our ministry celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2018.
- Over 1.2 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 (33%) 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
- The influence of Islam exists in many parts of Africa; estimates show that nearly 30% of the population is Muslim. Relational evangelism has been a key to reaching Muslims with the Gospel.
- 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 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.
- Africa is home to dynamic, growing Christian churches and unprecedented numbers of believers

## **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
- 60% of the population follow traditional religion; 5% follow Islam
- Pray that those involved in BLI's Project Philip Bible studies will grow in their faith and share the Gospel with others

## **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 2017 by Bible League International
- More than 500 Christians in Ethiopia were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical 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
- 92,000 adults, children and inmates in Ghana were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- Nearly 2,600 Christians in Ghana were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies
- 24 new churches in Ghana were planted in 2017 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 live 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
- Over 44,000 adults, youth and inmates in Kenya were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- More than 1,600 Christians in Kenya were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies

## **Madagascar**

- Madagascar is a remote, vast and exotic island with 15,000 rainforest villages; it is the fourth largest island in the world, and one of the least developed countries worldwide
- Over 70 percent of the population live on \$1 per day. Only 30% of the population live in cities.
- There are approximately 3 million Christians in Madagascar; others follow traditional religious beliefs, ancestral worship and Islam.
- Twenty languages are spoken in Madagascar, including Malagasy and French
- Over 25,000 people in Madagascar were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- Nearly 2,000 Christians in Madagascar were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies

## **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

- More than 16,000 adults, youth and inmates in Mozambique were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- Nearly 200 Christians in Mozambique were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies
- Over 50 new churches in Mozambique were planted in 2017 by church planters using Bibles and training from Bible League International

### **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 81,000 people in South Africa were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- More than 500 Christians in South Africa were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies
- Seventy-three people in South Africa received training in 2017 through Bible League International's Church Planter Training Program; six churches were planted in 2017

### **Tanzania**

- Tanzania has a population of 56 million; 100 languages are spoken here
- There are fewer than 10 million Christians in Tanzania; 35% of the population follow 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.
- Pray that those involved in BLI's Project Philip Bible studies will grow in their faith and share the Gospel with others

## Uganda

- Uganda has a population of 42 million people
- Over 45 languages are spoken in Uganda; English and Swahili are two prominent languages
- Uganda's median age of 15 years is among the world's lowest, making it Africa's youngest country
- Forty percent of the population live in rural areas; 4 in 10 live on \$1/day; child labor is common
- While Uganda has many Christians, over 15% of the population follow Islam
- More than 11,000 adults, youth and inmates in Uganda were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- Nearly 1,100 people learned to read and write in Uganda in 2017 using Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy program

## Zambia

- Zambia's population is 16 million; there are approximately 4 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 42,000 adults, youth and inmates in Zambia were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- More than 3,400 Christians in Zambia were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies

## 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
- Over 15,000 people in Zimbabwe were reached with the Gospel in 2017 by Bible League International
- Nearly 1,100 Christians in Zimbabwe were trained in 2017 to share the Gospel through Project Philip evangelical Bible studies