



“Fan the Flame – Bibles for Asia” Spring 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 “Fan the Flame – Bibles for Asia” radio campaign. Please note that BLI totals for 2019 are for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019.

Asia – General:

- More than one-half of the world's population lives in Asia (4.6 billion people)
- 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 2,300 languages spoken, including English, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Thai, Hindi, Bengali, Malay, Chinese and others; there are 950 million speakers of Mandarin Chinese as their first language
- The influence of Islam exists in nearly every part of Asia. Relational evangelism has been a key to the explosive growth of Christianity among Muslims.
- Believers in Asia are often persecuted because of their faith. Some face physical violence, while others are denied basic necessities, such as water, electricity, and financial support for schooling.
- Many new Christians in Asia today often begin their new life in Christ without a Bible
- The growth of God’s Church in Asia is weakened by inadequate discipleship and leadership training
- Christians in Asia need God’s Word to resist the pull of traditional religious beliefs, occult practices, secularism, materialism, and other influences
- God’s Word is powerful, but it is often unavailable, inaccessible, or unaffordable in Asia
- In Asia, Christians number approximately 400 million, compared to 1.1 billion Muslims, more than one billion followers of Hinduism, and 90 million Buddhists.
- Asia is home to dynamic, growing Christian churches and unprecedented numbers of believers
- In 2020, Bible League International serves in 11 countries in Asia, including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam
- Overall, in 2019, more than 894,000 people in Asia were reached with God’s Word by Bible League International. Over 60,000 Christians in Asia were trained to share the Gospel through Project Philip, our evangelistic Bible study. More than 37,000 learned to read and write through our Bible-

based Literacy Program. And, 2.5 million Bibles and biblical resources were provided to under-resourced churches in Asia.

Bangladesh

- Many people in Bangladesh live in extreme poverty, often working as day laborers facing hard work and low wages
- Over 60 percent of adults and school-age children in Bangladesh cannot read or write
- Nearly 90 percent of the population follows Islam, while 9 percent are Hindus
- Evangelical Christians make up less than one percent of the population in Bangladesh
- Authorities often oppose the spread of the Gospel and local religious groups persecute Christians. Converting from Islam to Christianity or any other religion is viewed as apostasy and is punishable by jail or even death in Bangladesh.
- In 2019, nearly 18,000 people in Bangladesh were reached with the Gospel by Bible League International
- Over 5,000 people in Bangladesh learned to read and write in the Bengali language in 2019 through Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy Program

China

- China is the most populous country in the world with 1.4 billion people
- There are approximately 70 million evangelical Christians in China
- China's communistic government closely monitors the country's Christian churches
- Some Christians are part of house churches that operate without the government's knowledge
- A growing number in China desire to learn English because it is a dominant international language
- In 2019, more than 32,000 people in China were reached with the Gospel by Bible League International
- Over 2,100 people in China learned to read and write in English in 2019 through Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy Program

India

- India is the second most populated country in the world with 1.3 billion people
- There are 450 languages in India. Hindi is the country's official language.

- 75 percent of the population, or 900 million people, follows Hinduism; nearly 15% follows Islam; only about 2 percent of the population is Christian
- One in three adults in India is illiterate, while millions live on less than \$2 per day
- In India, 50% of girls do not receive primary education
- Over 215,000 people in India were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- Nearly 37,000 Christians in India were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip
- Over 5,000 people in India learned to read and write in the English and Hindi languages in 2019 through Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy Program

Indonesia

- Indonesia is the most populated Muslim-majority country in the world; Christians make up less than 10 percent of the country's population
- Christians can face harsh persecution here. The mayor of Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta, a Christian, was removed from office and jailed on charges of blasphemy against Islam in 2016.
- Indonesia is made up of 17,000 volcanic-produced islands, making it difficult to reach certain indigenous people groups with the Gospel
- More than 55,000 people in Indonesia were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- Over 2,100 people in Indonesia learned to read and write in English in 2019 through Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy Program
- Nearly 167,000 Bibles and biblical resources were provided to under-resourced churches in Indonesia in 2019

Malaysia

- Malaysia is predominantly Muslim with over 100 radical Islamist groups pushing for Sharia Law
- Christians make up about 10 percent of population and can face harsh persecution from Muslims
- More than 140 languages are spoken here; Malay is the official language of Malaysia. Other languages spoken here include Tamil, Burmese, Chinese and English.
- Over 2,700 people in Malaysia were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- More than 500 Christians in Malaysia were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip

Myanmar

- The country of Myanmar, known previously as Burma, has a population of 54 million
- Nearly 90 percent of the population in Myanmar follows Buddhism
- Evangelical Christians make up less than 5 percent of the population
- Bible League International began ministry in Myanmar this year (2020)

Nepal

- Nepal is located in the Himalayan Mountains between China and Tibet
- Political uncertainty, growing religious extremism, high inflation and poor roads are challenges to carrying out ministry in Nepal
- Three in four Nepalese follow Hinduism, and the caste social class system contributes to discrimination against those living in extreme poverty
- Christians and others outside Hinduism are not allowed to openly share their religious views; they risk fines and imprisonment. Despite this, the Church in Nepal grows because of bold evangelism.
- Over 67,000 people in Nepal were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- More than 2,400 Christians in Nepal were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip
- Over 3,200 people in Nepal learned to read and write in English in 2019 through Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy Program

Philippines

- The Philippines, comprised of 7,000 small islands, relies heavily upon the fishing and tourism trades
- Filipino is the official language of the Philippines, which has a population of 105 million people
- One-half of the population in the Philippines is under 21 years of age, and many young people are forced into the sex trade, creating opportunities to minister to its victims
- More than 80 percent of the population follows traditional religion, Roman Catholicism. Evangelical Christians make up 9 percent of the population. Nearly 6 percent of the country's population follows Islam.
- Over 430,000 people in the Philippines were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International

- More than 17,000 people in the Philippines learned to read and write in English in 2019 through Bible League International's Bible-based Literacy Program
- Nearly 15,000 Christians in the Philippines were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip
- Over 700 new churches in the Philippines were planted in 2019 by church planters using Bibles, biblical resources and training from Bible League International
- Nearly 1.4 million Bibles and biblical resources were provided to under-resourced churches in the Philippines in 2019

Sri Lanka

- Christians make up less than 10 percent of the population in Sri Lanka and often face persecution from Hindu and Muslim extremists
- Buddhists and Hindus in Sri Lanka are open to the Gospel
- Sri Lanka is still recovering from the 2004 tsunami and the decades-long civil war, which caused devastation, personal loss and economic hardship. In addition, more than 250 were killed when Islamist radicals bombed churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter 2019.
- Tamil and Sinhala are the two dominant languages spoken in Sri Lanka
- Over 16,000 people in Sri Lanka were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- Nearly 1,000 Christians in Sri Lanka were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip
- Nearly 43,000 Bibles and biblical resources were provided to under-resourced churches in Sri Lanka in 2019

Thailand

- Christians make up less than two percent of the population in Thailand. Former Buddhists who are now Christians face rejection by family and friends who follow Buddhism.
- More than 95% of Thais are nominal or practicing Buddhists
- Thai Christians have the opportunity to minister to one million refugees fleeing neighboring Cambodia and Myanmar
- More than 37,000 adults and children in Thailand were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- Over 500 Christians in Thailand were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip

- Nearly 111,000 Bibles and biblical resources were provided to under-resourced churches in Thailand in 2019

Vietnam

- Vietnam is a Communist country with a population of 96 million people. Over 85 percent of the population is Buddhist, and less than 10 percent is Christian.
- Remote and mountainous areas make it difficult to reach people with the Gospel
- More than 100 languages are spoken here, with Vietnamese as the official language
- Over 21,000 people in Vietnam were reached with the Gospel in 2019 by Bible League International
- More than 2,000 Christians in Vietnam were trained in 2019 by Bible League International to share the Gospel through Project Philip
- Over 51,000 Bibles and biblical resources were provided to under-resourced churches in Vietnam in 2019