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# news release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Bible League International® Pioneers Program for Youth in Nigeria:

**African population dominated by young people, many of them orphans**

**CRETE, Ill., May 13, 2011** – Bible League International® (BLI) is pioneering a new program in Nigeria, where three-fourths of the population is under the age of 30, aimed at teaching secondary school and university students to base their lives on God's Word.

“God-Ordained Life and Dream” or G.O.L.D., is designed to reach Africa's youth between the ages of 15 and 24 with Bibles and accompanying studies. The program, developed by Africans for Africans, launched in February 2009, with trained Nigerian adults leading the studies and mentoring the youth involved.

“Those we call youth today will soon be adults,” said Silas Kenala, BLI's Senior Director of Africa Ministries. “We already have testimonies of the benefit of having the program in schools with administrators reporting that they have seen improvements in the attitudes and conduct of students in our G.O.L.D. program.”

In contrast to the United States, where the population is getting older, more than 50 percent of sub-Saharan Africans are under age 18, according to a Population Reference Bureau 2010 study. In a region torn by conflict, poverty and disease – with an [estimated 12 million AIDS orphans](#) – many children have to raise themselves.

“This study touches my heart,” said Obioma, a university student. “When we studied the materials in our group, I sensed this was written specifically for me. I cried for my sin, my reluctance to follow Jesus, and how far I have been away from God. G.O.L.D. has revived and restored my life.”

The G.O.L.D. Life Bible study has two parts, one about evangelism and the other about discipleship, with five lessons in each.

More than 104,000 Nigerian youth have gone through the program since its launch. It has been praised by school leaders even in the predominantly Muslim northern region of the country. New believers of Muslim background have chosen to

**Bible League's G.O.L.D. program reaches African youth, page 2**

participate in G.O.L.D. Bible studies because they've seen the positive change in others even if it puts them at risk in their own community.

BLI officials in Nigeria developed the program with assistance from staff in Ghana and Kenya, where the program is next expected to spread. Once the materials are reviewed and refined, the program will likely expand into other African countries as well.

Bible League International is a non-profit evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to making disciples and training Bible study leaders and church planters using the Word of God. Since its founding in 1938, Bible League has placed millions of Bibles in the hands of people in more than 80 countries. Its goals are that every person who wants a Bible can have one, every neighborhood has a vibrant Bible study group and every community has a thriving church grounded in God's Word. More information is available at [www.BibleLeague.org](http://www.BibleLeague.org).

- 30 -

**Note to Editors: For more information about Bible League International or to arrange an interview with Bible League representatives, please contact Melany Ethridge or Steve Yount at 972.267.1111, [melany@alarryross.com](mailto:melany@alarryross.com) or [steve@alarryross.com](mailto:steve@alarryross.com).**