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4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

[A. Larry Ross Communications](#)

Melany Ethridge 972.267.1111

melany@alarryross.com

Steve Yount 972.267.1111

steve@alarryross.com

Bible Agencies Unite to Strengthen Ministry Impact

**Bible League International®, World Bible Translation Center
combine operations, share resources**

CRETE, Ill., Aug. 1, 2011 – [Bible League International®](#) (BLI) and the [World Bible Translation Center](#) (WBTC), like-minded ministries with complementary missions, have announced plans to merge, forming a partnership that will enhance the work of both organizations.

The boards of both ministries approved the merger unanimously, with the agreement to become final in September.

Bible League and WBTC have a common mission of sharing the Word of God around the world so it can be understood and lives can be changed. Each ministry brings unique strengths to the relationship; Bible League in Bible distribution and WBTC in Bible translation. The impact of combining these strengths and building together will be global in its reach.

“One of the directions we see God moving in the 21st Century is ministries are looking at ways to collaborate with other organizations to grow their common mission,” BLI CEO Robert T. Frank said. “This merger will strengthen operations for both of our ministries, increasing the tools available to reach the three global audiences we share: the poorest of the poor, the persecuted church and those walking in darkness.”

Bible League contributes strengths in the areas of administration and relationships internationally with networks in the field, but seeks better access to Bible translations. WBTC has that core competency, focusing on easy-to-read Bible translations, along with printing and distribution of new Bible translations. By sharing these strengths, each ministry enables the other to better fulfill its mission.

“The focus is equipping believers to help people understand who Jesus is and how He can change their lives,” said WBTC President Eric Fellman. “We will do this

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through Bible translation, training and publishing of Scripture materials so that people prepared by the Holy Spirit will be brought into God's community through Jesus Christ."

Bible League headquarters will remain in Crete, Ill., near Chicago. Translation, global procurement and new product development will be managed from WBTC offices in Fort Worth, Texas. The staff and operations will be combined under the Bible League structure, with WBTC retaining its identity in translation and publishing as a ministry of BLI.

Key staff will direct departments in both Fort Worth, Texas, and Crete, Ill. Frank will serve as Global CEO and Fellman will become President of the combined U.S. operations. The new united organization will focus on expanding a literacy program around the world, as well as using new digital delivery technology recently developed in a strategic alliance with 12 other ministries.

"These are exciting days to be involved in the ministry of reaching people around the world with the Word of God," Frank said. "There are amazing new opportunities on the horizon, and our partnership with WBTC allows us both to take advantage of these more quickly, to see more hearts transformed by the power of the Gospel."

"God has been leading us into this relationship for many months," Fellman added. "We believe His hand is in it, and we look forward to seeing what He will accomplish through our combined efforts."

Bible League is a non-profit evangelical Christian ministry, dedicated to serving those involved in evangelism, discipleship and training of 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. For more information, visit www.BibleLeague.org.

WBTC is a non-profit, Bible translation organization founded in 1973 and based in Fort Worth, Texas. A handful of people began the Center's work with the desire to see God's Word accurately translated in a simple and clear way into the world's majority languages. The Center has printed and distributed more than 21 million Bibles and New Testaments; it has also provided tens of millions of Scripture portions and internet downloads. For more information, please visit www.wbtc.org.

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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 or steve@alarryross.com.