

Action!



Fruit = Souls

In This Issue:

	Growing Pains.....p. 2
	Growth Like a Mustard Seed.....p. 2
	A Dedicated Partner in Giving.....p. 3
	Tributes.....p. 4
	A Shining Star.....p. 5
	Tips for Teachers.....p. 6
	Nigerian Increase.....p. 7
	Students Grow Up.....p. 7
	What's Happenin' at WBS?.....p. 8
	WBS Is.....p. 8



John Reese

By John Reese

Have you ever had an experience where the harder you worked the more you defeated yourself?

We had such an experience in South Africa. Religious cultures emphasized the ordained clergy (priests, dominees, pastors) as the specialists qualified for the Lord's work. Unfortunately our members placed me, as a missionary, in the same category. The more I visited, taught and preached—including pointed lessons on member involvement—the more my labors reinforced the stereotype. Members reveled in their role as the audience and applauded my professionalism all the more.

The big break came when new Christians arrived. He was a nuclear safety engineer, and she was a hospitable homemaker. Oblivious of local cultures, they dived into the work, teaching Bible classes and making converts within a few months. Their examples broke the mold. Eyes were

opened. Here were everyday Christians doing the Lord's work. Members began to ask me, "Are we allowed to do that, too?" "Yes, of course! That's what I've been trying to tell you!" With that breakthrough, the growing began in earnest.

Here were everyday Christians doing the Lord's work. Are we allowed to do that?

Our last issue of *Action!* exalted the Word. When does the Word work its great power? When it is well distributed and presented, which is to say, when members make the effort with the Word. That is different from busy-ness that squeezes out the mission itself. Paul likened Timothy to a single-minded soldier and a hard-working farmer (2 Timothy 2:3-6). Paul's call to devoted evangelistic labor was not for Timothy alone; it was to be passed on to reliable members (2 Timothy 2:2). This is the Lord's plan, that every disciple made should become a disciple-maker (Matthew 28:19-20). Growth is the natural result of active members and their persistent soul-winning. Indeed, growth is an identifying mark of the true Kingdom (Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 2:35;

continued on page 5



Great Stories of Growing
See page 2.

Growing Pains from a few... ...to half a million!

If you want a modern example of growth, trace World Bible School's success in the African nation of Zimbabwe. In 2006, the number of WBS students in that once-fruitful nation were meager for one simple reason—the collapsed economy. Souls were willing but unable to return correspondence answers because they could not afford a stamp.

In response, John and Beth Reese spent two weeks in March and April of 2007 visiting 20 schools in Zimbabwe. They launched **YOUTHREACH** in which all Zimbabweans could return answers by using postage-paid envelopes provided by their WBS teachers. Business Reply Mail (BRM) proved revolutionary. In each school—government and private alike—the Reeses were welcomed and given opportunities to offer WBS courses to the school students. The immediate result was 10,000 enrollees. On



Above: **John Reese (under flag at right) addressing high schoolers.**
Right: **Yet another school.**



a second trip with Rick and Mary Shur in July 2007, they were welcomed into 20 more government schools where 7,500 were enrolled (nation-wide exams reduced activity). Zimbabwean churches of Christ carried the project forward. By the end of 2007, enrollees totaled 50,000.

BRM improved retention 30% or higher, with each returned lesson enrolling ten or more referrals. Soon WBS had exhausted the initial supply of 300,000 BRM envelopes. By the end of 2008, it was estimated safely that 150,000 had enrolled. Today, in 2011, the total is estimated at 500,000, representing about one twentieth of the nation's entire population.

The hub for much of this activity is the **WBS Service Center at the Avondale church of Christ** in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. Some 2,000 returned BRM envelopes are picked up every week at the Avondale Post Office. Unnecessary weight is removed, then mail is grouped according to destination (U.S. churches to receive the correspondence answers). This processed mail is packaged and airfreighted to the home office of WBS in Cedar Park, Texas. Mary Nell Kemper and her team of volunteers rapidly distribute the answers to the relevant churches where WBS coordinators pass them to their respective teachers.

Mary Nell recently sent to coordinators 88 lbs. of mail, and she presently is expecting 160 lbs. more from Zimbabwe. Last year's total of WBS mail airfreighted from Zimbabwe to the USA was 1,191 lbs., representing hundreds of thousands of student interactions.

continued on page 7

Growth Like a Mustard Seed



Blakey Bradley and a WBS co-worker

By Blakey Bradley
The Madison Street church of Christ has two parts to its World Bible School ministry: foreign and United States (which includes both English and

Hispanic). In our United States work, 99% of the students are incarcerated.

Here was how the mustard seed was planted: In 1999 we received a phone call about a baptism request from a WBS student. We received permission to hand out Bible studies in the Montgomery County Jail and Workhouse. From that small beginning, an amazing story of growth unfolds. In 2010 we mailed out lessons to students in over 300 institutions (jails, prisons, penitentiaries and rehab. centers) in

28 different states from Nevada to Vermont and from Ohio to Florida. In the first eight months of 2010 alone, we enrolled 1,136 students, mailed 4,601 Introductory Lessons, 4,050 regular lessons and 383 Bibles. In that same period, we had 62 baptisms requested and had 25 confirmed baptisms. Here are some accounts:

Inez—was baptized through our WBS studies, then used our Gospel lessons to teach others in her cell block. One of her cellmates was baptized. When she was released, she converted her aunt and became an active member and WBS teacher in our congregation.

Mike—studied our lessons and obeyed the Gospel in the Workhouse. After release, Harold Vann helped Mike for over a year to overcome his addiction. Today, Mike has completed his college degree, is married, has twins and is working at a rehab center reaching out to others.

Jose—took our studies. After Jose's release, I baptized him. He soon headed home to Miami where, as arranged, he and his family received follow up from a Hispanic minister.

Through WBS, I have reunited families. We have also been able to set up a network of 30 contacts in Indiana, Kentucky, Alabama and across Tennessee to make visits with WBS students who have requested baptisms. I know of at least three jail ministries in Tennessee that began from our studies and their resulting baptism requests.

Athens—I contacted Travis Irwin to make the visit. He was able to baptize the student. Today, the Athens church has established a jail ministry where they go into the jail and teach Bible once a week. They have 25-30 students and have had over 30 baptisms. They have about a dozen women ready to go into the jail to begin a women's ministry. Their

continued on page 6



A Dedicated Partner in Giving

Recently our own Rejenia Anderson took the call from the daughter of Neil Edmundson. Her 96 year old father was in the hospital, suffering from internal bleeding. He had an urgent request: "You must let WBS know that my regular gift won't be arriving this month!" Rejenia shared the call with the rest of us saying, "Now that's the kind of dedicated partner that is such a blessing to WBS!"

Neil has been a blessing to many, and for many years. He has helped start congregations, served on three elderships, and used WBS to spread the Good News of Jesus, all with his wife, Ethel (deceased, 2004). Last year, John and Beth Reese visited him in Arkansas. Neil told them how he promoted WBS because "it was something anybody could do." His table was covered with Bibles and helps, alongside Ethel's photo and funeral program. He told of converts and co-workers in far-away Malawi where his Gospel seeds had taken root.



When age finally prevented WBS teaching, Neil continued his help through regular, monthly support—just as our Sowing the Seed Gift Program donors are. We thank God for Neil and many other committed WBS supporters. Their gifts are producing "a crop—30, 60, or even 100 times what was sown." (Mark 4:20).

* * * * *

Have you truly considered joining the *Sowing the Seed Gift Program* since we introduced it last year? Automating your gift giving makes it easier for you to give and less costly for WBS. That means more souls will come to know Jesus studying the Bible with WBS! Here are ways that you can join:



- Complete the gift form below. If you'll be using checks, please send the first one, too. We'll send you gift form reminders. However, your gift will go further (less cost for both us and you) if...
- ...you use your bank's automatic bill payment service. Talk to your bank or go to their website to set up recurring "payments" to WBS, which will be treated as "donations".
- You also can set up automated credit card payments securely online at www.worldbibleschool.net/give or with this form.

Action!

Editor: John Reese

Action! (ISSN 8750-1333) USPS 004380 is published bi-monthly by the non-profit ministry of World Bible School. WBS is a worldwide network of Christians teaching the Gospel with printed and Web-based Bible lessons.



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!
 16110 Anderson Mill Road · Cedar Park, Texas 78613
 512-345-8190 · 800-311-2006 · fax 512-401-8265
 Lessons: 877-393-0211 · info@worldbibleschool.net
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Action!*
 World Bible School, P.O. Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630
*Periodicals Postage Paid at Cedar Park, Texas,
 and at additional mailing offices.*

YES, I'm joining WBS' **Sowing the Seed**

Gift Program. I commit to give:

Monthly:

- \$30/ mo
- \$60/ mo
- \$100/ mo
- \$ _____/ mo

I will give this on an ongoing, monthly basis.

Annually:

- \$300/ yr
- \$600/ yr
- \$1,000/ yr
- \$ _____/ yr

I will give this on an ongoing, annual basis.

NO, I'm not joining now, but still want to give this amount: \$ _____

Mr. _____
 Mrs. _____
 Ms. _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph (day) _____ (night) _____

E-mail _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gifts by Check

My first gift is enclosed. Please send my gift form reminders.

Gifts by Credit Card

Please charge my credit card. See the amount at left.
 Visa MasterCard American Express
 (You can also give securely online at www.worldbibleschool.net/give.)

Card No: _____

Expiration: _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as on card) _____

Signature: _____

Gifts with Automatic Bill Pay

I'm setting up payments from my bank. See the amount at left.



P.O. Box 2169 · Cedar Park, Texas 78630
 800-311-2006 · 512-345-8190
 info@worldbibleschool.net
www.worldbibleschool.net/give

Memorial & Honor Gifts

In Honor of...

Birthday

Edna R. Abston
Robert & Frances Baker

Betty Austin's 90th
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Sibyl Coe's 92nd
Art & Laquita Searles

Brad Dodd
Doris Dodd

Jim Dultmeier
Doris Dodd

Laura Hunter
Lydia M. Guillot

Alta Immell
Betty Nettleton

Christian Service

Susan Howell
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Paul & Ana Morrow, Brazil
Troy & Sandra Morrow

Lewis & Tammy Short, 11 yrs in Italy
John & Beth Reese

Jaxie Palmer
John & Beth Reese

David & Jenna Reese
John & Beth Reese

Rhinard & Betty Troup
Weldon & Carol Hendrix

Ross Wood
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Friendship

Georgia Hobby
Tim & Georgia Estes

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Maddox
Joyce T. Cawood

Tommy & Kay Parrish
Johnny & Jo Anders

Tony Smith
Scott & Connie Sladek

Mr. & Mrs. Fred White
James & Joy Barton

Ira & Ester Wilson
Johnny & Jo Anders

Illness

Jim & Shirley Nixon
Ron & Susan Pottberg

In Memory of...

Juanita Adams
Zelpha Bearden

Ruth Alumbaugh
Daisy J. Knickerbocker

Marvin Aly
Jack & Ruby Moran

Reba Baites
Ron & Susan Pottberg

Carolyn Ball
Daisy J. Knickerbocker

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Balranelli
Marcus & Fran Jones

Judy Barrett
Farrell & Grace Hogg

Roy Bearden
Shirley Pearce Thomas
Hwy 95 Church of Christ
Kevin & Michelle Pepper

Cecil Bell
Johnny & Jo Anders

Wanda R. Bell
Shirley B. Alexander

Ann Betts
Eddie & Virginia Dunagan

Evelyn Bonner
Daisy J. Knickerbocker

Jackson Bradley
Dot Bradley

Delbert Brisco
Kenneth & Judy Rowland

Sgt. Bryan Burgess
Chal & Doris Burgess
Julia Bryant

Jack Callihan
Ruth Orr

Bessie Hardin Chenault
John & Beth Reese

Sid & Bessie Chenault
Richard & Barbara Park

Arthur & Chelsea Puckett

Levi Chupp
Margaret Ostendorf

Louise Clare
Bill & Mickie Kennedy

John Cliver
Johnny & Jo Anders

Otha Dell Conger
Margaret Orf

Mary Jo Christian
Johnny & Jo Anders

Betty Cook
Daisy J. Knickerbocker

Harold Daniels
Ruth Orr

Doyle Davis
Farrell & Grace Hogg

Mary Davis
Estelle Coriell

Mildred Davis
Vivian Smith

David Desha
Everett Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Arie Hoover
Farrell & Grace Hogg
Hillcrest Church of Christ
WBS

Tim Dratchenberg
Farrell & Grace Hogg
Gene & Jackie Denman
Richard Seifert

Alice Escola
Dorothy Chrisner

Beryline Farris
Dorothy Capps

Mrs. Jim Foster
Don & Virginia Worten

Fritz Friedman
Ron & Susan Pottberg

Sam George
Zelpha Bearden

Barbara Gibbs
Sheryl & Robin Wright

Gladys Gibson
Daisy J. Knickerbocker

Verna Gostecnik
Johnny & Jo Anders

Erna Goucher
Mary Beth Pettay

Tommie Ruth Haines
JoAnn Templeton

Dorothy Hall
LaRue Eggleston

Abbie Hammond
LaRue Eggleston

Reagan Hanna
Rita Rhodes

Edward Hardison
Betty J. Anderson

Barnell Hayes
Van & Doris Roberson

Virgil Herrell
Kale & Janet Martin

Pearl Hickman
Bill & Linda Mitchell

Mary Leona Hughes
Bill Atnip

Mary Huskey
Roosevelt Dr Church of Christ

Jeremy & Mandy Ireland
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Lillian Johnson
Ruth Ann Davis

Bill Leach
Bob & Barbara Penick

Keith Loker
Ron & Susan Pottberg

Barbara Lovelace
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Marcelle Lyons
Johnny & Jo Anders

Mickie Maufrais
John & Rita Diller

Claude May
J.W. Hamby

Alice Maynard
Avalyn VanCamp

Charles McBroom
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Luise McCrary
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Emily McElroy
John & Beth Reese

Bobbie Ann McGuire
Johnny & Jo Anders

Joe McKenzie
Highland church

Mary L. McNeese
Jesse & Virginia Phillips

Show Ming
Gerry McCauley

Robert Moore
Jim McCorquodale
Lou & Janis Cartwright
Chuck & Judy Gentry

Charles Mosely
Janie Mosely

Leon Newell
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Bounds

Marvin Nite
Johnny & Jo Anders

Seville Nunn
Johnny & Jo Anders

Orvis & Ann Oliver
Dean & Zan Oliver

Jeff Parker
Billy Joe & Betty Oliver

William "Bill" Pullum
Eddie & Virginia Dunagan
Ron & Susan Pottberg

William F. Price
Margie L. Price

Curtis Pruett
Mary Lu Pruett
Johnny & Jo Anders

Anna Rheinbolt
Estelle Coriell

J.D. Richmon
Sandi Green

Myrna Roberts
S. Stephen Roberts

Harrison Rutherford
LaRue Eggleston

June Sanders
Benny Sanders (2)

Roy Sanders
Bill Mitchell

Shemaiah
John & Beth Reese

Blake Sickles (2)
Maxie A. Sickles

Hugh Singleton
Ron & Susan Pottberg

Emma Lee Sisk
Billy M. Atnip

Maycell Smith
Carl & Frankie Mitchell

James Spaulding
Neil & Carolyn Summers

Ida Stephenson
Johnny & Jo Anders

Edna Stewart
Doris McKee

Hazel Taylor
JoAnn Templeton

Bill Terry
Kevin & Julie Rhodes

Ila Mae Thornton
Kenneth & Judy Rowland

Stephen & Atha Troup
Linda Davis

Aline Turner
JoAnn Templeton

Jim Turner
Joe & June Hill

Blanton Vickery
Carmon & Doris Grant

Don Vinzant
John & Beth Reese

Bobbie Wallace
Johnny & Jo Anders

Susan Warren
Rhonda Thompson

Herman Weller
Oleta Paden

Barbara Wilkerson
Don R. Wilkerson

Michael Williams
Ron & Susan Pottberg

Celia Workman
Bill & Karen Quigley

Dr. V. Ponder Wright
Wanda Wright

Don Zerr
Johnny & Jo Anders

Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts are ideal ways to pay tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to "teach the Word and reach the world" with WBS. Upon receipt of your gift, an appropriate letter of acknowledgement will be sent naming the honoree and you as the thoughtful donor (without the gift amount).

Please accept my:

HONOR GIFT

Birthday Anniversary

Illness Friendship Other _____

MEMORIAL GIFT

This gift is for

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

This gift is from:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Church (optional) _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Relationship to Honoree _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.

Visa

Discover

MasterCard

Amex

Other _____

Card No. _____

Expiration _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as on card) _____

Signature _____



A Shining Star Called Reba

[Some excerpts come from a report to the OneStar Foundation and the Governor of Texas.]

At age 93, Reba Sorrells continues her regular pattern of volunteer work with both World Bible School and church benevolence. For 27 years, she and her late husband Cleo served Boles Home, a charitable children's home at Quinlan, Texas. She was a teacher and principle at the on-campus Boles ISD. They had three children and also legally adopted three more children. After retirement, they drove some 500,000 miles during 16 years as "Grocery Route" drivers, collecting goods and donations for Boles Home. She and Cleo began volunteering as teachers for WBS in 1980.



Reba Sorrells,
WBS teacher
from Tyler, Texas

In 1996 a car returning from a party crashed head-on into their vehicle in predawn hours. The accident claimed Cleo's life and left Reba with extensive injuries. Since learning to walk again Reba has lived in Tyler, Texas, at an independent living facility. She attends West Erwin church of Christ. Today, her passion remains her volunteer work with WBS.

As a retired teacher and principal, her passion remains her volunteer work with WBS.

As a retired teacher and principal, the educational component of WBS has always appealed to Reba. At his death, Cleo had taught over 1,500 students. Reba has taught many more, mainly in the U.S., the U.K., Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and the Philippines. She has also recruited and mentored new teachers for WBS. Many students are third-world villagers, so it can take up to five months for a student to mail Reba a completed lesson, have it corrected by her and receive the corrected lesson. In that time, villagers frequently move, or worse, pass away. Therefore, Reba's promise is to correct papers and mail certificates of completion within five days of receipt. Reba keeps a meticulous record of participation for each student, handwritten on a note card. For over 26 years, Reba kept her commitment by dedicating 20 volunteer hours each week to WBS.

With every WBS lesson, Reba also sends her students what she refers to as a "treat," an encouraging note or books, pamphlets, commentaries or Bibles, that she collects from her library or church. One community in Nigeria actually turned her "treats" into the library for the Ebonyi School of Preaching. Due to limited space in her living facility, Reba is unable to save the countless letters from her students. However, she is inspired to watch her students' reading and writing skills improve with each letter they send, and she tries to keep meaningful letters and photographs.

In recognition of her volunteer efforts, Reba has received many awards (from Boles Home, churches like Greenville, City of Tyler for mentored at-risk children, etc.). The most publicized is the "Lonestar Achievement Award" presented by the Governor of Texas for "an inspirational sum of volunteerism." Reba and the late Cleo Sorrells did all of these things without pay, without obligation and without expectation of any acknowledgment for their efforts. Simply put, they did what was needed.

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).



Fruit = Souls (from page 1)

Luke 8:10-15; 13:18-21).

Have you noticed the odd thing about America's fastest-growing religions? They claim histories and doctrines that are fantastic and easily disproved. They are commonly despised. How do they overcome such deficiencies and manage to grow? Simple: they put their members to work. They get into communities. They knock doors. They teach and ask for decisions, and the results follow. They take advantage of an old truism, "In all hard work there is profit" (Proverbs 14:23).

How much more effective are those who combine hard work with the power of the Gospel! Recently I visited an elder in Nashville who wins about 250 people to Christ every year. His secret? His entire life focuses on two great goals: Love God and love your neighbor—both of which clearly include sharing God's greatest Gift. While he earns his living in real estate, his daily concern is caring for people and telling them the Good News.

WBS Connect has a similar purpose. It is not a substitute for hard work (for there is no substitute). Rather, *WBS Connect* gives ways to work more effectively, ways for your members to connect with and teach new seekers. Whether through this method or some other, the command and the promise remain relevant for us today: "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).



U.S. Prisoners Comment

- "I have been out of jail for two years. I have stayed with the Lord in every way. Doing the study with you changed my life for the better. I took hold of the God's hand and have not let go. In February I was baptized and became a new person of God. I have never been so happy as I am now. I do all things in the Lord now and the blessings are great. I'm sending you three new student names."
- "I was referred by Jamie. I thank you all for thinking of me—I am truly blessed. Please send the same to my wife at the women's jail at Western Kentucky."
- "Some guys in here would love to have some Bible work. I have been telling them about it and how it helped me a lot."
- "I was enrolled in your Bible course last year. I really enjoyed them. I am out now and really miss the time I spent focusing in my Bible. Please re-enroll me."



Tips for Teachers!

Growing Through WBS Resources



By Sheryl Williams

Would you like to get more folks from your church involved in teaching World Bible School? WBS has resources to help you. We have printed material as well as videos that can excite and inform people about helping to spread the Gospel to a lost world.

WBS is focusing 2011 on the USA. To let members know that they can be a part of reaching our own nation, the DVD entitled *Come Home with Us* is perfect. Reaching out to your community is a great place to start—and what better way than with proven WBS lessons?

For those who aren't familiar with WBS, the DVD entitled *WBS is...* is a great resource. This video explains what WBS is about, what WBS does and how the method reaches people around the world.

Do you have new teachers in your program? *The Teacher Training* DVD for postal teaching is a valuable resource. Set up in chapters, the DVD can be viewed in segments, perhaps 15 minutes each Wednesday evening over a few weeks' time. The DVD is a great way to get your questions answered about starting a program, number of students to teach, how to label the lessons and other topics.

Also, we have other DVDs available with themes ranging from touching the young people in Africa through the schools there to reaching the world via Internet technology. Our professionally developed DVDs are top quality, encouraging and uplifting.

We'd love for you to use them to inspire folks in your congregation to get involved!

The WBS home website has a lot of information for teachers and churches as well. It is the home of the *Program Guide* as well as a wealth of printable promotional materials that you can post in your church to advertise your WBS program. Go to http://worldbibleschool.net/c_resources/index.php for the resources to help you build and grow your program.

We're here to help you with your WBS program. Please contact the WBS office for more information. Phone 512-345-8190.



Growth Like a Mustard Seed (from page 2)

long range goal is to establish a halfway house for follow-up and rehab.

Waverly—I contacted Waddell Lee. He and Jeff Keel established Bible studies each Thursday with 22 men in attendance. They have had 15 baptisms. They plan to start a women's ministry. Keel reports, "These men are very appreciative of our visits and even lead the prayers following our lessons. They all stand up in a circle and hold hands as we pray. It is very encouraging to see such effort on their part."

Union City—I made contact with Dan Huggins. He and three other men meet with 10-12 men in two different pods each Thursday. They have four women who have set up Bible studies with ten women each Thursday. They have had over 20 baptisms. They are trying to set up a Sunday service.

All this began with one phone call because a WBS student was interested in obeying the Gospel. The Kingdom of God is truly like a mustard seed.



Kano Invitation

Beloved, We write to inform all WBS teachers and lovers of World Bible School that there will be a one day WBS seminar on August 20, 2011. Time 8:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M. at New Road Church of Christ, behind Nnewi Hall, No. 22, New Road, Sabon Gari, Kano, Kano State, Nigeria.

Theme:

**Bible Is the Road
Map To Heaven**

Teachers should notify their students in Kano State and nearby states to attend. Students should come with invitation letters from their teachers. Teaching supplies welcomed. Our postal address: Church of Christ, 22 New Road, Sabon Gari, P.O. Box 2374 Kano 700001. Kano State, Nigeria.

New Grader URL

In the last issue of *Action!* we described the useful Grader Program available for download from Mission Viejo church of Christ in California. Just recently, we received this note from Gary Marsh:

Hi, John. Well, wouldn't you know it? The moment you put something in writing, it is no longer so. We just recently changed our internet provider and web hosting company, and now the grader program is found at the following web link:
<http://mvchurch.org/?p=372>.



Gary and Lisa Marsh. Gary is a great programmer and cook!



Nigerian Increase



Doug Wheeler and Monday John Akpakpan in Nigeria

By Doug Wheeler

I thank God that everything went well on my mission trip to Nigeria this year! After coming home early from my mission trip

last year because of safety concerns, I was somewhat apprehensive about this year. But fear was replaced with joy as each day I was able to move unimpeded in the southwest part of Nigeria, following my daily itinerary just

as planned. The prayers to God offered by many of you for my safety while in Nigeria proved effective! I thank God!

It is always my pleasure to preach the Gospel of Christ in Nigeria and to encourage and build up the local churches of Christ! I was able to see 60 people baptized into Christ for their soul's salvation! The WBS Seminars and the Leadership Seminars we had scheduled went well and were profitable for all who attended! I also know that there many were baptized into Christ after our evangelistic Seminars. The Nigerian preachers would call me two or three days after our Seminar with them reporting that more had become Christians after we left. We give glory to God for giving the "increase"!



Students Grow Up

By Ruth Orr

Thirty years ago Mogu Okwudili Fredrick sat in a sixth grade classroom in Anambra State, Nigeria, when someone came and handed out WBS lessons. Fredrick took one and sent his name in, and I became his teacher. Fredrick completed all the series. But being so young, he did nothing about baptism, and time went by without his thinking too much of those past lessons.

Then one day, February 19, 2011, Fredrick saw a sign advertising a WBS lectureship going to take place at Abagana in Anambra State with Ron Pottberg, Ruth Orr and other American visitors. This brought back memories of WBS studies as a young boy.

Fredrick immediately introduced himself to Raymond, the preacher at Abagana. I was called and the 30 years unfolded. He still had some of the certificates signed by Jimmie Lovell. Can you imagine our joy as teacher and student united after 30 years? Fredrick and I sat down and talked and studied God's Word, and I was amazed at the knowledge he remembered of those lessons so long ago.

I had to go teach a ladies' class, so Ron Pottberg took over teaching him. Soon Ron came and said that Fredrick was ready. What a joy it was to witness Fredrick's baptism into Christ. Today, he is an insurance salesman

and an active member of the Abagana church of Christ.

Teachers, never give up on a student. Most do not have the opportunity to travel to Africa and witness great moments like these, but your student already may have become a Christian and you won't know it until eternity rolls around. That will be the greatest reunion of all.

Editor's note: This year Ron and Ruth and their group travelled to Ghana and Nigeria. They saw 117 people give their lives to Christ in baptism. In the following weeks over 100 more were added to Christ. The work goes on daily by our faithful national brethren, and God gives the increase. We have seen one congregation go from 17 in attendance to over 70 now coming together each Lord's day. The work in Nigeria and Ghana has always been rewarding, and we are thankful to partner with our fine brethren there.



Ruth Orr and Mogu Okwudili Fredrick in Abagana, Nigeria

Growing Pains (from page 2)

Such growth is fabulous but also causes growing pains—namely delays in another vital function. The WBS Service Center at Avondale also serves to receive follow up requests from U.S. teachers and to pass them on within Zimbabwe. Leaders at Avondale are well acquainted with helpful congregations around their nation, and they are well equipped to communicate follow up requests to the Christians nearest to any given student.

Unfortunately, at least four factors have interfered with the timely flow of follow up information. Firstly, the daily flood of mail leaves little time for fully addressing follow up needs. Secondly, a parallel flood of follow up requests arrives daily and keeps accumulating. Thirdly, even where follow up takes place, the office is already overloaded and has little opportunity to report back to Americans. Fourthly, many Christians who do follow up lack the means to report results in a timely fashion.

We can do little in the short term about the fourth factor, communication difficulties in Third World environments. But we can solve the first three factors almost immediately. We can do this by hiring another worker to help with mail handling. In this way, we can release our most experienced manager to give proper attention to follow up requests. This simple solution will contribute to hundreds of baptisms each year, not to speak of reducing frustrations experienced by WBS teachers and their responsive students who are waiting for important information. Please take this request to your elders, missions committee, class or small group. \$300 per month will meet the need, and help us to reap Zimbabwe's huge harvest. For details please email Ron Pottberg ron@worldbibleschool.net or John Reese john@worldbibleschool.net. Or phone the Cedar Park WBS office at 512-345-8190. WBS Service Centers serve as hubs connecting WBS teachers and follow up evangelists with hundreds of thousands of students. These hubs are vital keys to mail-flow and to many conversions. They can turn your missions program into an exciting outreach that grows rapidly and shows measurable results.



Washington and Alice Mhlanga are key to the Avondale Service Center.





What's Happenin' at WBS?

- 1, 2** Dr. Ira Hill leads our Strategic Planning, preparing us for 2011.
- 3** Robin Cannon now manages WBS operations. He and his family are in the process of moving from Memphis to Austin.
- 4** Sharon Gardner, a local WBS coordinator, joins us as a consultant.
- 5, 6** Your generosity made possible these much-needed roof repairs—and other improvements.
- 7** Kit Mullins and Lance Tolar are key to outreach via the Internet.
- 8** Kevin Rhodes points out plans for WBS Development. The fund raising goal for 2011 is \$1,575,000. You boosted gifts to WBS at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011. Let's keep growing!
- 9** Having just returned from African travels, Ron Pottberg lays out plans for future WBS recruiting and follow up.
- 10** Teresa and Jerry Brooks. Jerry managed all operations for six years through 2010, when he re-retired. Thank you, Jerry!
- 11** Another massive delivery of printed courses to the warehouse in our office block.
- 12** After repairs, our flags fly proudly in the perpetual breeze on our hilltop.
- 13** Rick and Mary Shur. Rick represents WBS east of the Mississippi.

Upcoming with WBS...

In July...



...the greatest gift!



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Action! World Bible School
 P.O. Box 2169 • Cedar Park, Texas 78630

Address Service Requested

