

# Action!



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

Volume 76, Number 2

March 2012



John Reese

If you hear our new sister Melissa describe her spiritual delivery, you will

appreciate freedom all the more. Secular values trapped her. Her mistakes landed her in jail. The judgment against her was so unexpected and so devastating that she fell into despair. Her fall would have been unchecked, except for a Bible verse that presented itself to her repeatedly. She seized on it, and it saved her.

*You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32).*

In that context, “the truth” includes Jesus’ statements: “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin” and “you will die in your sin” (John 8:21,24,34). The fact is that all sinners are trapped and enslaved. Whether the prison is literal or not, each sinner is on death row. Sooner or later, each sinner tumbles into a tailspin...for the simple reason that

God never designed life to be lived without Him. In every case, the solution is the truth: The truth of the Gospel. The Truth incarnate.

*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36).*

This issue tells inspiring stories of deliverance. Often the truth is delivered through Scripture-packed World Bible School lessons. Where Christians were present to share their faith, WBS lessons served as personal work tools or supplements. Where Christians could not be present—as in international and prison situations—WBS lessons were the front line communication. One reason

**His death and resurrection set us free.**

WBS features in so many reports is the sheer numbers that can be taught through correspondence. One former offender now has 20,000 students of his own (page 2). He knows the value of freedom. He wants as many as possible to have the opportunity he enjoyed—the chance to be “free indeed”!

You too can join Jesus, the great Liberator, in His mission “to proclaim freedom for the prisoners” (Luke

4:18). His death and resurrection have set them free. What they need now is to hear the news so that they can believe and benefit. What is your 2012 plan for sharing the Good News? Whom will you help release to enjoy “the glorious freedom of the children of God”? Consider the tools offered, including WBS’ new Gospel presentation, *The Way to Life* (page 6). Consider how you can emulate the stirring examples. What a blessing to experience true freedom! What a blessing to help others become “free indeed!”



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**New Web Release**  
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# South Sudan's Freedom



Tigist and Roger Talanyi

By Roger Talanyi

I recently graduated from Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, TX. I was

born of water and Spirit in 1996, having studied World Bible School lessons for two years in refugee camps in Sudan and Ethiopia. I am working through God-loving brethren to return to East Africa and preach the Gospel to many hungry souls.

The freedom of the world's newest nation finally arrived! The Republic of South Sudan's first Independence Day was July 9, 2011. This new freedom comes in many shapes and sizes, especially to many of us who waited on the Lord to deliver us from Islamic domination. It means so much for us who have survived. We all rejoice

with celebrations of singing, tears of joy and prayers of thanksgiving. All of this seemed humanly impossible. Many will agree with me that the hand of the Prince of Peace brought freedom and peace for the South.

Previously, it was impossible to carry a Bible or to preach without being branded a "kaffir," an enemy, to a pure Islamic State and imprisoned or killed. Many were scattered and tried to survive in the bush as the regime was determined to wipe out all Christians in Sudan. Refugee camps were bombed regularly by Antinov planes of the Sudanese Air Force.

Independence came through a referendum when the South Sudanese were allowed to vote and decide who would rule them, but that opportunity was bought with huge human sacrifice. Many men, women and innocent children were killed for not



A Sudanese rejoices with her freedom to vote.

being Muslims. They bear deep physical, emotional and psychological scars from the long ordeal. Many see freedom as a miracle. It opens an extra window of opportunity to contribute to salvation in Christ for the people of South Sudan. Christians now, for the first time, proclaim the Word of God and worship without harassment! Thank you, God! Thank you fellow Christians who prayed and supported Christian work in Sudan! Let us embrace this freedom with God's direction since He alone can provide everlasting peace.



## Life's Greatest Lesson

By Ernest Bullard

I know first-hand about *freedom*—especially the freedom that comes from the love of God our Father!

I've lived a dangerous life. In my younger years, I was so hard-headed. When I walked the streets, I'd fight anybody, any time, for any reason—I didn't care. My lifestyle and temper led to multiple convictions that combined ugly words like

"aggravated," "deadly weapon" and "intent to kill." My longest sentence was ten years.

In prison, I learned a lot of lessons. The greatest lesson of all? That it's all about God and His grace. And you know how I learned that? In prison, I became a WBS student. I



Ernest Bullard

*continued on page 7*

*To Edie Connel—Rasha and her husband were both baptized tonight after studying with Wade Price. She asked if there were lessons in Arabic. [They are] from Sudan. I know you all will rejoice with me. This is the first baptism I've had on the Web. Love to all of you, and thanks for being there for me, and for all lost souls.*  
**from Mary McKinney**



Ray Cox

*from the Freedom Files of Ray Cox...*

## Gloria's Indomitable Spirit

Gloria McMaster found Christ while serving

three years as an inmate at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women in Alabama. She began her search by taking 19 different Bible study courses, finally winnowing those down to two sources, both from World Bible School.

Two Alabaman churches of Christ were involved, namely Hartselle and Rainbow (Gadsden). Gloria understood the truth and gave herself in complete surrender to Christ.

She was released from prison in 2007 and was nurtured by the Roebuck Parkway church in Birmingham. Life was not easy for her. Just two weeks after her release

she suffered a stroke and is now disabled. Gloria has not let this stop her. Her indomitable spirit has carried her full circle, from Bible correspondence student to Bible correspondence teacher. She now handles all the correspondence students enrolled from Roebuck Parkway's prison ministry.

"I know, from my own experience, the

*continued on page 7*



Gloria McMaster



## Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

# Freedom to share Jesus

*When you hear the word "freedom," what does your mind envision?*

An American flag unfurled.



A soaring eagle.

Broken chains.



A care-free vacation.



An audited financial statement.



*Wait—how'd that get into that list?!*

Though it might not have leapt to your mind, it can be a pretty vivid picture for someone like me at a ministry like WBS. What if—recessionary times or not—WBS had the funds readily available to do all that God had called us to?

2011 was a little like that for WBS. While we broke student enrollment records—praise God!—we were also blessed with a relative measure of financial

“freedom” for the year. Many generous donors, large and small, continued to give, even in uncertain times. They’re all eager to see Jesus shared with souls and they’re confident in WBS doing that well.

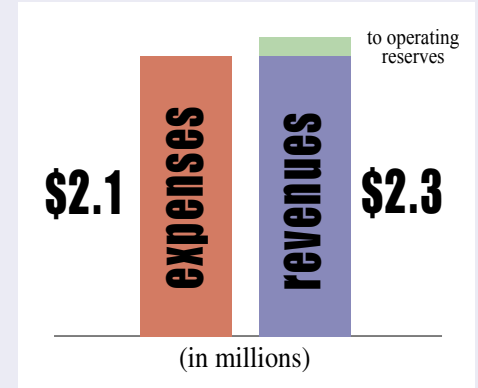
One amazing blessing came when an anonymous couple wanted to reach souls in a powerful way. When they found themselves blessed with a significant income event, they wanted to see WBS experience a significant income event as well. They handed me an envelope with these words scribbled on it: “WBS – spread the Word!” Inside was a six figure check. Wow. I was humbled—by the amount, by their own gracious humility, by God’s work in their lives and in the mission of WBS.

The collective giving in 2011 made it a banner year, one that set the stage for an exciting, proactive, effective 2012. That’s why we’re “building on the Rock.” We believe that God will continue to bless us as good stewards who are proactively fulfilling the Great Commission throughout the world. Please continue to partner with WBS.



## 2011: Stellar Results

Again, God blessed WBS with record student enrollments, as well as strong financials for moving forward.



## Action!

Editor: John Reese

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## Ralph and Joyce Perry Honored

By Jerry Canfield

In 1971, at the end of the Biafran War, life was difficult in South East Nigeria. People were starving and the needs overwhelmed Nigerian brethren. Pre-war missionaries from the United States could not get visas to re-enter Nigeria. Yet God had prepared. Canadians could enter Nigeria because both were members of the British Commonwealth.



Ralph and Joyce Perry

Ralph Perry was a Canadian. At David Lipscomb College, he was inspired by mission calls from Otis Gatewood, Reuel Lemmons, Marshall Keeble and others. He expressed an interest in Nigeria, but was told he needed a wife and good health. Having neither, Ralph returned to serve Canadian congregations. He and Joyce married in 1953. By 1971, they were experienced and the parents of five children aged six to seventeen.

Roger Church in Nashville asked the Perry family, as Canadians, to enter Nigeria. They accepted the challenge, providing relief and leadership training at Nigerian Christian Bible College at Ukpom. After fulfilling their two year commitment, they returned to work with Canadian congregations.



Jerry Canfield shows the Perry plaque.

Churches of Christ multiplied in Nigeria. By the late 1970s, World Bible School had hundreds of thousands of correspondence students, not only in the south but also in the middle and northern states that lacked churches. In 1980, after persistent requests from Jimmie Lovell, Ralph began to implement a WBS follow up program in Nigeria. With Joyce's sacrificial consent, Ralph agreed to another two year

commitment involving two three-month travels each year in Nigeria to work with national evangelists for WBS follow up. Fifteen years later, in 1995, Ralph retired from his WBS service. In that period, tens of thousands were converted and hundreds of congregations were established. Ralph encouraged and worked with the Nigerian leadership. Together they advanced the church, even in Nigeria's ten Muslim states.

Because of their trust in God, their cooperative spirit and their sacrificial service, International Health Care Foundation is pleased to present "the Glenn and Shirley Boyd Award for International Christian Service" to Ralph and Joyce Perry. (Jerry's speech, adapted here, took place at the Medical Missions Seminar, Fort Worth, January 20, 2012. Ralph and Joyce were honored though they could not be present.)



**Editor's note:** World Bible School enjoys great partnerships. New Life Behavior (NLB) is one of the best. I asked the author, long-time educator and counselor Hillary Motsinger, to describe his courses and the resulting sister ministries.

## New Life Behavior



On a previous visit to WBS: Tex Williams, H.M. Motsinger, Louis Gerber, John Reese, Ron Pottberg. Louis uses NLB and WBS in prolific prison work. Pray for the Gerbers as a car accident recently took their son Landré.

By H.M. Motsinger

New Life Behavior grew out of a course entitled "A Sense of Self" which helped people to recognize their God-given value and to realize their potential for better behavior. The program worked so well that some prisons permitted its use to earn points for early release. In 1993, Texas Justice officials offered the program to the families of inmates. In 1996, annual training conferences began. 2,600 instructors have been trained and certified. In 1997, NLB won Texas' "Governor George Bush Award" for Best State Jail Program.

Today, NLB Ministries, headed by Buck Griffith in Corpus Christi, operates in at least 45 of the United States. For details see [www.nlbm.org](http://www.nlbm.org).

NLB International is based in Dallas. It uses English, Russian and Chinese and operates in over 20 foreign countries. For international use, the free CD may be ordered via [www.nlbi.net](http://www.nlbi.net).



Buck Griffith

Our philosophy is based on the Bible. God is alive and well. He loves us and wants us to be His children. So He created us in His image and sent His only Son to call us back to a grace-filled relationship with Him. Courses address personal and behavioral concerns of the student first. As the student builds a level of trust in the instructor, the student transfers that trust to God and the church as a family where they belong and have a responsible role. The result is practical Christian attitudes, feelings and behaviors, and above all, freedom in Christ!





# T<sup>ips</sup> for Teachers!

## New Intro Lesson

Look at the cover of our new Introduction Lesson. A man walks through a field toward a bright dawn. That is the glow of glory, the light of life and freedom. The title *The Way to Life* evokes a journey to discover life's true destination.

The journey begins with simple stories about choosing your direction in life. It introduces the Bible as the Map for life. It then points to Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. It focuses on His death and resurrection, and how we participate in those saving events.

*The Way to Life* is short—just 20 pages. It is inexpensive—just 20 cents, as before. Its language and art are simple. Yet this brief booklet presents the Gospel clearly and attractively. It can serve as a stand-alone piece for distribution, whether to your neighbor next door or to a packed auditorium or to thousands drawn to a medical mission. If it is the only piece of literature a person ever reads, that person will have had at least an opportunity to learn the Gospel. The person

who returns the answer section receives even more Gospel teaching through the WBS Master Series.

Examine this new Intro for yourself. Picture its potential. Release your imagination to envision its uses. Oleta Paden (87) of Ennis, Texas, had watched a young neighbor grow up. When he returned to care for his aging parents, he asked Oleta to help him understand the Bible. She immediately gave him a WBS Intro and is continuing with other lessons. Whom should you help? How about giving one to all your neighbors? That is one purpose of this piece. How about saturating your target area of America? How about plugging into the world's most receptive regions?

The first printing of the new Introduction recently arrived at the WBS warehouse—500,000 copies announcing freedom through Christ. Boxes and boxes are on their way already. Let's keep sending these out and reprint more and more, literally millions each year. We already enjoy Emancipation. Now it's time for the Proclamation!



## Become a WBS Web Teacher!

### New "Shared Cost Gift" Option

Become a WBS Web teacher! Our new Web teaching method and site herald a new era for reaching and teaching more using technology (details on page 8).

To be an email or Web teacher with WBS, we are now suggesting a "shared cost gift." This is an important distinction from the previous condition. Why the change?

- 1) To ensure that more are able and willing to teach with WBS' email and Web offerings—important given the vast growth anticipated for e-student enrollments.
- 2) To ensure that the funds you provide are indeed considered "charitable gifts" by tax law and therefore tax-deductible for the donor (depending on individual circumstances).

WBS invests heavily to supply you cutting-edge tools. Can you help with costs? Wonderful! Are you unable to give the suggested shared cost gift amount? Then give what you can. If you cannot give at all, the Myers-Cox Teacher Assistance fund remains in place to provide a "scholarship" for you to teach.



## Just One Woman

### A Letter from Linda

Dear John,  
Our congregation is small and in the country where neighbors are few and far between. Recently, our men decided to reach out to our neighbors offering Bible study, either postal, Internet or face to face. Their dilemma is how to word the ad for the local paper.

My personal feeling is that we should not use gimmicks to draw people, but go straight to the bulls-eye. I believe that we should always be upfront with our faith and not be ashamed of the name of Christ or ashamed to be known as a member of His church.

I also believe that we should join forces with "what is working." I am a World Bible School Internet student helper, and I have seen the Gospel at work—four out of 50 students baptized last year! And I am just one simple woman.

**Editor's Note:** Linda, thank you for thinking and praying about such an important matter. The wording "World Bible School" is neutral. I am not aware of anyone put off by that wording. The reason people are put off by a name is that they think they know about it already, including all the negatives. We need a chance to explain what we mean, and not be blocked by what they pre-suppose we mean, which often is incorrect. We do need wisdom in how we approach people, so as to get a fair hearing. I think WBS and its Introduction Lesson do exactly that.

Have your folks considered mailing to every address in the county or a portion of it? This kind of mailing can be relatively inexpensive. Ask the post office for details. I know others in situations similar to yours who are doing exactly that. This distribution at least gives people an opportunity to receive the Lord's Message in an attractive form.





# Prison Doors Open... to A Great Grandmother

By Ruth Orr

Prissy Sellers and I arrived in Malawi, and immediately travelled to Zomba to meet the National Chaplain who is over all the prisons in Malawi. He took us to the Central Prison that houses over 2,000 inmates. This was the first such invitation for white women. The chaplain invited me to teach the WBS students and Prissy to teach the others. After two days of teaching, 118 inmates—mainly those prepared through WBS—were baptized into Christ. From there we drove to Nsanje with the National Chaplain. We had studied with him last year,

and continued during this journey together. He looked at us and said, “I will be the first one baptized when we get there.” After two days of teaching the Chaplain was the first one baptized, followed by 64 inmates. The Chaplain’s baptism is opening many new doors all around Malawi. His wife was also baptized recently.

The church in Nsanje began a year ago through a WBS student who was a denominational preacher with a large family. Now it has over 200 members. It has also helped start four new congregations and one across the border in Mozambique. We worked in



Partners for Malawi and other African nations:  
Susan and Ron Pottberg with Ruth Orr

five other prisons across Malawi. By the end, we were exhausted but so excited over the Lord bringing 492 new souls into His kingdom, mostly WBS students.

**Editor’s note:** Ruth recently became a great-grandmother. Her six children have blessed her with 11 grandchildren and now a great grandchild. Along with these, Ruth has children in the faith beyond number. Many congratulations, Ruth!



## From the Freedom Files... (from page 2)

impact teaching Christ by correspondence makes on the lives of others, and I am grateful for those who taught me,” she said.

Gloria has served her five-year probation. She is now living on her own and is enjoying serving God with all her being!

## Sylvanus Set Free

Sylvanus came to America from his native Kenya. He was picked up for immigration violation. We met him at Etowah County Jail. He studied with us regularly and also enrolled in our World Bible School courses. He learned well, but



Richard and Sylvanus--welcomed at his baptism in Smyrna

resisted obedience in baptism.

Upon release he continued studies from his home in Smyrna, GA. We introduced him to Richard Barnes and the Central church of Christ. Richard’s patience eventually bore fruit. We joined many Smyrna members in witnessing Sylvanus’ baptism.

Sylvanus wanted his family in Kenya to

hear the Good News of Christ. Follow up in Kenya was arranged through contacts of prolific WBS teachers, the Musicks of Glencoe congregation near Gadsden. The result was twelve more converted, and the establishment of a new congregation. Christ is glorified, and the story continues.



## Life’s Greatest Lesson... (from page 2)

still have my WBS certificates. WBS and my study helper helped me see the light, learn the truth and change my life.

Eventually, I was released. I worshiped at a church of Christ at a transitional center, “The Freedom Church,” which works with Westover Hills church in Austin.

On a cool, bright Sunday in 2006, I myself was baptized into Jesus Christ. I have been a faithful member ever since. I learned that Westover Hills had a WBS teaching program. *I could do that.* I knew

how it had blessed me. So I became a WBS teacher. Since then I’ve sent lessons to over 20,000 people all over the world. I want to share Jesus like a missionary would—just please don’t put me on an airplane! I’ll just teach with WBS.

A few months ago, in late 2011, I received one of the greatest blessings of my life. When ex-convicts who were attending The Freedom Church came to Westover Hills to be baptized, who had the honor of baptizing them that day? Yours truly, Ernest

Bullard: prisoner...WBS teacher... saved by grace...set free from sin.



“I am so thankful that I have WBS lessons to send to prisoners. It’s so hard to find someone who is wanting to study God’s Word, and many prisoners appreciate it.”  
**Roberta M. Kohl**

# Visit Our New Web Sites!



By Jonathan Towell  
**W**orld Bible School ended January 2012 on a high note by launching two new

sites: *worldbibleschool.net* and *worldbibleschool.org*. The new sites have replaced nearly every other site previously built by WBS.

At *worldbibleschool.net* you can learn about teaching with or supporting WBS.

The new teaching website is *worldbibleschool.org*. It is designed for use by all Internet and email students and teachers.

The sites were launched with the purpose of renewing our sense of simplicity regarding how we use the Internet

to teach. We think that students and teachers will be able to use the teaching site with minimal effort. If you can use email, you can use this site to teach someone about Jesus.

I want to tell you about two of my favorite features on the new sites. First, with the new teaching site, teachers can claim students immediately after the student is ready for a teacher. Teachers no longer have to wait on students to be assigned to them.

Another feature I really like is the ability to use the website from any modern mobile device. The site was optimized to run well on both desktop computers and on devices like iPhones, iPads and Android. Now I can help my students study the Bible when I'm waiting at the doctor's office. (But I would

**It's easy! If you can use email, you can use this site to teach someone about Jesus.**



NEVER use this new technology during a Sunday morning sermon.)

These days, use of the Internet and email is commonplace. We use them for communicating with family, friends, colleagues and even strangers. We use them for information and entertainment. Why not use them for sharing the best news of all—the Good News of Jesus? Please take the opportunity to look at the new sites and use them. To become a web or email teacher, send an email to [apply@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:apply@worldbibleschool.net). To learn more about the Internet program, go to [www.worldbibleschool.net](http://www.worldbibleschool.net).



*Upcoming with WBS...*



*Lift  
up  
your  
eyes!*

*(The fields are ripe for harvest.)*

**World  
Bible  
School**



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!  
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