

Action!



Teaching the Word.
Reaching the World!

Volume 71, Number 2

March 2007



YOUTH WBS REACH



Reaching High Schools with the Gospel

By John Reese



You have seen WBS' direction statement: **Reaching Tomorrow Today!** This theme's most brilliant facet is reaching youngsters and youth. We give arms to Jesus' welcome in Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to Me!"

Why reach the young? Because of their affinity to the kingdom... their humility... their willingness to accept, learn and be molded... their value to God as evidenced by their angels in His presence... and more. The receptivity of youth is readily observable and well documented ("The Case" follows).

Have you seen the DVD featuring Ron Pottberg and Ruth Orr? Ruth summed up

If we don't reach the children, someone else will.

our message well: "If we don't reach those children, someone else is going to reach them. So we must be in there reaching those children.... Give me the children, I'll take them."

How true! And, have you noticed? The young grow up! In nation after nation, yesterday's WBS students now fill our training schools. In case after case, they have matured into today's church leaders. Fred Asare with Ghana's outstanding Village of Hope is one example. Dennis Okoth, reached by WBS as a young man, today leads the influential Nairobi Great Commission School. Oneal Tankersley was a teenage teacher inspired by

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55,829 enrolled in Kenyan High Schools! See pages 2 and 8.

The Case for Kids

Expert Testimony

“There are 6.3 billion people in the world. 2.1 billion of these are children under the age of 15. Children represent arguably the biggest unreached people group and the most receptive people group in the world. Yet the church is largely unprepared to take up the huge opportunities for mission to children.” *The Lausanne Group on Children.*



“Between the ages 5 and 12, lifelong habits, values, beliefs and attitudes are formed. Whatever beliefs a person embraces when he is young are unlikely to change as the individual ages.... The data show that churches can have a very significant impact on the worldview of people, but they must start with an intentional process introduced to people at a very young age.” *The Lausanne Group, citing Barna.*



“A substantial majority of the people who accept Jesus Christ as their savior do so before they reach their 18th birthday....



It is during those [earlier] years that people develop their frames of reference for the remainder of their life — especially theologically and morally.” *Barna article “Evangelism is Most Effective Among Kids,” October 11, 2004.*

“According to information in Lionel Hunt’s *Handbook on Christian Mission*, important life-changing decisions are made when people are young.... [Yet] 78% of the world’s young people are growing up in non-Christian settings.” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research, July, 1994; this article reproduces Hunt’s graph showing that 85% of those who turn to Christ do so between ages 4 and 14.*

Student Testimony

“At the age of 12, someone gave me the name and address of a WBS teacher. I started studying. The teacher encouraged me and helped me learn great things about the Bible and the love of God. I then became a Christian. God has given me the opportunity to be trained and to teach others about the Word of God. I want to broadcast to others the wonderful things that the Lord has done for me and my family!” *Susie Larty.*

“Evangelism is Most Effective Among Kids” — Barna

“When I was 15, I started to study the Bible with my WBS teacher. She has taught me and taken care of me until now. She is the best thing that has happened to me because she showed me the love of God, and now I am a Christian. I will never let her or the Lord down. I study God’s word every day from the Bible she gave me. The happiest day of my life was the day I gave my life to Christ!” *Simeon Ashalley.*

“As a young man, my friend gave me a WBS lesson. My WBS teacher, a true disciple of Christ, helped me with my lessons. By God’s grace, I began to diligently study the Bible. I then repented of my sins and was baptized into Christ. I give glory and honor to our God for saving my soul!” *George Danquah.*



The Case Confirmed

“55,829 students from high schools in Kenya were enrolled with the namegetters from some of the districts.” *2006 year-end report from Maureen Mbuvi, WBS office in Nairobi.*



Maureen with WBS workers in Kenya.

About four out of five WBS students are under the age of 25. **Reaching Tomorrow Today!** intentionally and strategically intensifies what we know to be effective already. One component, **YOUTHREACH**, aims to recruit students in schools. The astounding number in Maureen’s report illustrates the case, and it is the first wave of many to come from many more schools.

In a number of countries, it is within reach for our caring teachers to be studying with a large proportion of the nation’s entire school-going population. Transform the future leaders to influence the destiny of countless souls and the direction of nations in transition. **YOUTHREACH** emphasizes **YOU** doing the **REACHing**. As page eight shows, your intense prayers and your decisive actions are essential. Jesus is placing generations of young, impressionable hearts within *your* reach.



Reaching Tomorrow today!



Casting the 'Net

Linking Colombia & Argentina

I received news today of the baptism of Spanish Internet student Edgardo di Tomasso in Medellin, Colombia. He studied with Daniel Esteban Jaramillo in Argentina, who put him in contact with people he knows in the church in Medellin. God is great! (Message from Kristi Bond, Escuela Biblica Mundial-Internet, www.ebiblicamundial.org. See pages five and six for more Internet examples.)

Linking Search TV & WBS

At a seminar hosted by New Hope church in Waco, Tex., WBS' Ron Pottberg spoke about partnership. Chris Lyon of Search TV had been



Chris Lyon

facing the challenge of placing correspondence courses on Internet for Search. Hearing Ron, Chris thought, "Why reinvent

the wheel?" Search TV reaches into a great many homes across the U.S., Caribbean and beyond.

Mack Lyon's recent series resulted in well over 100,000 requests for his booklet, *Churches of Christ: Who Are They?* 1700 audio cassettes of requested sermons are mailed out each week.



Mack Lyon

When John and Beth Reese visited Search's offices in Edmond, Okla., Chris welcomed them by saying, "Come look at this.... We've just set up a link from Search to WBS."

Mack Lyon's TV presentation directs viewers to Search's web site where a link now offers Bible studies with WBS Internet.

Email Kit Lawson klawson@wbschool.net about how **your church or ministry web site can link to WBS.**



Above & Beyond

Question: How Is a Children's Course Born? Answer: With a Lot of Labor!

We would like to think that, like little ones themselves, the conception for children's lessons began long ago with God's forethought. He has certainly assured us that good works were prepared *ahead of time* for His people to do (Ephesians 2:10).

The earthly writing began with Kay Banta, a fourth grade teacher in Oden, Ark. and a WBS teacher. Kay had been on many campaigns in America, Europe and Africa, and knew the need. John and Beth Reese also wrote, edited and supervised the layout. Many others contributed the art, the tests and the activities.

If producing books is like having a family, this was a planned family of three courses. Kids cost money, and so does course production. Like many young parents, we wondered where the money would come from. WBS had no extra money for major new developments, so we looked around. Who better to help a children's course than... *children?* Sure enough, Westover Hills' children's program called VIPs chose WBS as a project. They raised the full amount for the layout and assisted the first printing of *Becoming Friends*. Likewise, many children helped with the second book, *Growing as Friends*, through the "Kidz Reaching Kidz" campaign. What a blessing and how appropriate!



Tex Williams congratulating VIPs for their part in WBS Children's Series.

Now the adults need a turn. Can you complete what the children began? The costs for producing the final course, *Friends Forever*, are as follows:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| • Remaining project coordination | \$1,000.00 | • Art | \$1,200.00 |
| • Initial printing, etc. | \$8,500.00 | • Layout | \$2,500.00 |

Which part will you or your congregation take? This is your opportunity to bless thousands of precious, pliable children, and ultimately millions. Contact Kevin Rhodes now at 1-800-311-2006.



Action!

EDITOR John Reese

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Outreach to Schools and Nations

Reaching Youth in the Philippines

The following impressions come from a WBS campaigner, Angelo Osay, a fourth year nursing student at the University of Baguio City, Philippines:

We are lucky that World Bible School came here in the Philippines to have students around the country. Though WBS' population has increased, it continually



seeks youths to enroll to know God better. WBS also helps its students to develop their speaking and writing skills as well.

At 9:00 a.m. I left Baguio with Quennie Riva Sagyaman and WBS coordinator Alex B. Coloma. As we traveled down the road, the excitement started to burst inside of me. I could not wait to meet my new classmates in WBS and to have new friends.

We arrived in Nueva Ecija at noon. WBS coordinators Gerry Mortera and Jaime welcomed us. After lunch we went to a high school in San Jose City where the principal allowed us to do the campaign with the students. Most of the students were quite cooperative.

In this campaign we distributed about 500 Introductions with help from Madam Juliet Santos, the first enrollee, who

patiently guided us to all the sections. After the campaign we visited Constancio Padilla National High School (4,000 students) to submit a proposal letter for us to have a campaign there the first week of October.



At the end of the day, all of us were exhausted. But that is nothing compared to the joy that we felt inside, touching the hearts of the students. I am glad to help in meeting the goal of WBS to encourage people — most especially the youths — to enroll with WBS to know God and have a well directed life like mine.



afford to pay the postage stamp, so we placed a drop box in the library and at the guard house for the students to drop in their answer sheets. WBS Volunteer Ian Fuentes of Makati collects the answer sheets and sends them on to our office in Baguio.

The youth here in the Philippines are more receptive than the adults. They made a great impact not only on their lives but their loved ones as well. They use WBS courses to enrich their knowledge about the word of God as well as to improve their English proficiency. The schools also associated our courses with their Values Education Class.



Fantastic Growth Factors

January 6, 2007, about 20 leaders met at Legacy church of Christ in Fort Worth, Tex. to network for evangelizing Nigeria. Don Hall of the Crestview church in Waco helped to organize and document the meeting. Excerpts from Wendell Broom, mission professor emeritus, and Wes Murphy, World Bible School (WBS) coordinator at Crestview, reflect factors for Nigeria's outstanding church growth.

Wendell Broom: C.A.O. Essien was the first Nigerian convert by our Bible correspondence in 1948. That work has grown exponentially under WBS. The largest numbers are: 1,000 churches of Christ in Ethiopia,



A Typical Report

By Sharon Gonzales

At the Pasay West National High School our seven WBS campaigners distributed 3,000 Introductory Lessons in two days. The school population is 6,000 students. The school administration wants us to focus on second year to fourth year students. Returned answer sheets already amount to 1,700 [confirmed enrollees]. Most of them cannot



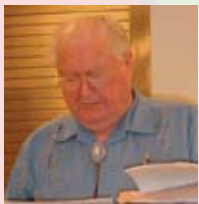
Sharon (in pink) with one of her many groups of campaigners.





1,700 in Kenya, 2,000 in Ghana, 4,000 in Malawi, and 3,850 in Nigeria. In Nigeria the congregations average 90 members, ranging from a handful to over 1,000 members. Nigeria alone has 21 Bible Colleges teaching students to live and proclaim the Word of God. Here are major reasons for the unparalleled success in Africa:

- a. God prepared a receptive people.
- b. Dedicated labor by pioneers and missionaries who taught and trained the masses. "Their emphasis was to train preachers who would train preachers....to plant churches that would plant churches that would....!"
- c. Extensive Bible correspondence teaching that is effectively spearheaded by WBS.



Wes Murphy: Crestview's budget assigns about \$20,000 plus approximately \$13,000 more in individual donations for the following:

- a. Sending two or three WBS study

booklets at a time to each student.

- b. Ample supplies of tracts and leaflets that teach on specific topics as needed.

- c. As tests are returned from Nigeria, our volunteer teachers (ranging from 10 to 15 volunteers) grade and return the lessons through our WBS office to be sent to Nigeria.

- d. We constantly receive more names of prospective students than we can handle. Surplus names are referred to Cedar Park or others.

- e. Our work is primarily in Kogi and Benue States, and Abuja.

- f. Each year up to 15 Seminars or Gospel Meetings are scheduled to follow up with WBS students.

- g. Each year Crestview pays for limited travel expenses to 15 WBS follow-up teachers, reimbursed for transportation and meals, not salaried.

- h. One exception we have allowed is to provide school tuition for up to four or more students to attend the School of Biblical Studies at Jos or the Nigerian Christian Bible College in Ukpom. After

graduation they continue as follow-up workers for WBS.

- i. Recently we have used "Truth for Today" for maturing our graduates.

We have sent WBS lessons to 80,000 students in Nigeria alone over the last 19 years. Our number of successful graduates exceeds 2,000 men and women. We have received reports of 175 churches of Christ now meeting in our three areas. The WBS program is credited as a major contributor that built these congregations.



Pray for **YOUTHREACH** from page 8

2006. Yet in poorer countries like Zimbabwe, where receptivity is also high, similar young people seethe like a pent up flood behind the dam of their poverty. In school after school, across entire nations, millions more would study with WBS if given the chance. Desperate for life-answers, they are ready to explore anything made accessible.

What is the solution for reaching them? Faith-filled prayer! "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). Is it "according to His will" that the barriers fall to let millions of youth benefit from the Good News? If you believe, pray for universally viable solutions that fit the needs of both students and teachers. Then expect the dam to burst. In faith, get ready to handle the deluge of responsive WBS enrollees.

In March 2007 the Reeses and Shurs join the Mhlangas, Tsigas and others in Zimbabwe to develop a pilot project for **YOUTHREACH**. The Pottbergs are exploring similar solutions in West Africa and beyond. Take time right now... petition the Father to open the way for young people who cannot afford postage, and to keep that way from being shut. "What He opens no one can shut" (Revelation 3:7). The youth form a strategic front line in the cosmic struggle. We must win this spiritual battle with "weapons of righteousness" — beginning with powerful prayers.



Internet Impacts Nigeria

Montez Mitchell started teaching Tee Jay Olatunji by Internet, December 2005. He excelled in his Bible studies. In April 2006, he gave Montez the name of a man named Ben who started studying. Then Ben gave her the name of a student named Rachel. In October 2006, Tee Jay asked her to find the local church, resulting in contact with evangelist Makinde Olufemi in Ibadan, Nigeria. Montez kept in touch with them and the others they brought for study. On January 14, 2007, all 13 studying were baptized after digging all day with Makinde to get enough water. Tee Jay will soon start at the preaching school in Ibadan, and Ben and Rachel will soon be married at the church.

Editor's note: Montez' congregation, Church St. in Lewisburg, Tenn., reports a total of 1,350 baptisms in 2006 through WBS. Texas-based WBS Internet reports a total of 6,876 new students enrolled from Nigeria during 2006.



Tips for Teachers!

Invite the Children!



“Can I get one for my grandchildren?”

By Beth Reese

We often hear that response when people encounter World Bible School’s new Children’s Series. Even as we produced the series, we felt the same way. We tried out the lessons on our granddaughters. During a visit to Papua New Guinea, we read bedtime stories to Hannah, Hadassah and Rochelle. But that was not good enough. Six year old Hannah soon took over and finished reading the course herself. It was much too exciting to wait for slow installments.

As this *Action!* is being published, so is *Friends Forever*, the last book in the WBS Children’s Series. WBS teachers should write to their current students asking if they know children eight years or older that can benefit from age-appropriate Bible study. Ask the children to write you a brief letter, revealing their abilities in writing and English.

Send samples of the Children’s Series to known and trusted follow-up men to show others. Again, ask for the letters from the children showing they have the means to correspond with you.

In your regular teaching, if you find stu-

dents who are too young for adult courses, start them on *Becoming Friends*. The adventures of Don and Kay introduce them to great stories of faith from the Old and New Testaments. While being prepared to take regular WBS courses, students learn principles of character like honesty, faithfulness and care for others.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if youth groups used this method to begin their quest to evangelize the world? In many such cases, the WBS students should belong to the group [as a class project], rather than to the individual. This provides continuity for WBS students



John reads *Becoming Friends* with Hadassah and Hannah.

when young teachers move on through promotion, graduation and other changes.

Let’s join together to invite the children to meet Jesus!



Internet for Children

Charles Valentine, originator of Children’s Bible Study (cbs) online, reports that the World Bible School Children’s Series, offered as paper booklets, is attracting response. Since the Series was first offered last March, 1,048 emails have been received signing up children, sometimes several at a time. Last month 199 such emails arrived. Gary

Havenhill handles these requests. He reports a retention rate of about 90% for those who sign up for Children’s WBS through cbs.

The WBS figures are just a part of so much more. The Children’s Bible Study — *childrensbiblestudy.com* — aims to prepare animated presentations of every major Bible character and theme with activities and resources. In January 2007 alone, 61,494 online studies gen-



In Memory of Micah 1979-2006

Over 500 friends of Micah Gifford traveled to Searcy from across the country, despite January weather, to honor him and comfort his family.

Through laughter and tears, the many layers of Micah’s life were shared. He had a heart for others...from the church camps, youth groups, the Harding experience, mission trips to Honduras and Mexico, to talking with his fellow soldiers in Iraq about Christ.

Moved by reports of terrorists killings, he joined the Army and was deployed to Iraq in October 2006. Losing his life to terrorist bombers did not make Micah a hero. He had been a hero his whole life.

Micah’s mother, Marsha, states, “We did not lose our son. We know where he is.” Via Post.Harding alumni newsletter.

YOUTH REACH from page 1

his WBS students to become a 20 year missionary to Kenya. Now at Harding University, he mentors young people for missions and produces films for Christian outreach.

By the way, a new edition of that compelling DVD is now available for general use (not just Impact Sunday). It makes a powerful case for WBS’ role in reaching youth. Ask for a copy to help others realize the strategic urgency of *Reaching Tomorrow Today!*



erated 986,338 page hits. About half find the web site through search engines. Since going online, there have been 31,000,000 page hits from over 175 countries.

Charles comments, “Since there are close to 1.2 billion computers with Internet access, the Internet is another incredible tool provided by God at just the right time... to reach all the people in our world!”





Honor/Memorial Contributors List

In Honor of.....

**Danny & Matt Amendola,
Nicolas, Sophia, Taylor &
Wilson Santos**

Mimi & PawPaw Brooks—in honor of Him for which this season is about and for which this work proceeds

John Bauer, Happy Birthday
Roberta M. Kohl

**Don & Linda Sue Booth &
family**

Rocky Thurman

**Jay & Sylvia Burcham,
in Appreciation of their
Christian example**

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Lindberg, our Friendship**

Robert & Ruth Lawrence

**Audrey Merrell, my aunt &
WBS teacher**

Joe & Carolyn Huber

**Buetta O'Dear, my good
friend**

Mercediese Heard

**Oleta Paden, Happy
Birthday**

John & Beth Reese

**Danny & Katie Reese, our
children who have a heart
for the world**

John & Beth Reese

**David & Jenna Reese, our
children who have a heart
for the world**

John & Beth Reese

**David & Jenna Reese, newly
married**

Maurice & Mary Nell
Kemper

**Marcus & Diane Reese, our
children who have a heart
for the world**

John & Beth Reese

**Bro. Dale Reynold's great
job on the roof**

James T. McClung

**Mrs. Jessica Robison, Happy
Birthday**

Roberta M. Kohl

**Larry Robison, Happy
Birthday**

Roberta M. Kohl

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Samuel

Kenneth & Juanita Dunlap

**Betty A. Sanders 80th
Birthday**

Ron & Susan Pottberg

Polly Shelton

Charles & Donna Conley

**Lewis & Tammy Short, our
children who have a heart
for the world**

John & Beth Reese

**James & Tonya Smith,
Happy Anniversary!**

Bill & Mickie Kennedy

In Memory of.....

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John & Cayce Myers

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Pray for YOUTH REACH



When Jimmie Lovell launched World Bible School, he placed small newspaper ads that generated thousands of responses. Many ordinary people in the Third World could afford to respond by mail directly to America. As the world 'advanced' in some sense, the rich became richer but the poor became poorer — less able to afford overseas postage. Eventually WBS opened Service Centers so that students could mail their responses within their respective countries. From each Service Center, WBS sends the students' mail by air to American teaching congregations that happily share the courier expenses, permitting hundreds of thousands to study the life-giving Gospel.

However, in countries like Zimbabwe, the poor become yet poorer. Oppressed by 90% unemployment, 1,000% inflation, AIDS and more, their average life expectancy hovers between 34 and 37.

The postal system still works, but nearly all mail from Zimbabwe has dried up — most cannot afford even local postage. Yet receptivity is as high as ever, as evidenced by astounding results where local WBS collection methods are set up (see Zimbabwe stories in *Action!* July 2006 and January 2007). Congregations in Gadsden, Ala., Amarillo and Midland, Tex.

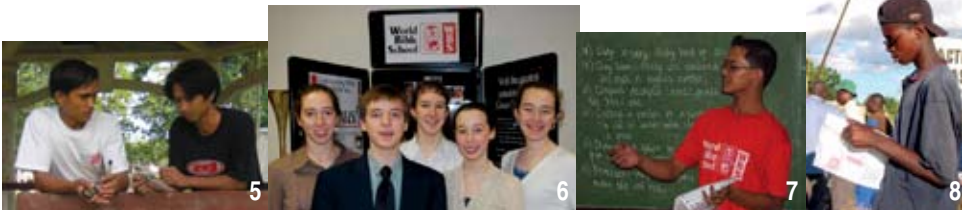
and Starkville, Miss. have led the way. With the Lord's help, we who coordinate WBS worldwide seek to turn their localized solutions into universal solutions.

Whatever those solutions prove to be, they will be important for reaching Third World youth. Young people in school are often the most receptive (and literate due to required subjects like English and French). Yet, having no income, they can least afford stamps for correspondence. Where they have any opportunity at all, they enroll by the thousands. In Kenya alone, 55,829 high schoolers enrolled during

continued on page 5

Photographs

1. Young WBS campaigners pray in a Muslim village
2. Italian WBS campaigner Sarah Console enrolls Zambian students
3. Young Filipino members recruit thousands for WBS
4. Muslim high schoolers hear from WBS and enroll
5. Ems Layco enrolls Filipino youth
6. Springdale, Ark. WBS teachers: Emily, Nathn, Anna, Naomi, and Lydia, Purdom
7. Von Olibay shows WBS to Manila high schoolers
8. Zimbabwe youth reads WBS Intro.



Upcoming with WBS...

Your work energizes

Action!

Do you have stories about these topics?



- Reaching the U.S.A.
- Reaching Prisoners
- Honoring Heroes
- Compassion Ministries
- Reaching Hard Fields
- Reaching the Young
- WBS Touching Lives



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