

Action!

FAITH not fear



John Reese

By John Reese

In 1933 the American economy was deep in depression. Franklin D. Roosevelt became president. His inaugural address contained these now-famous words:

First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

Recently we watched failed ventures scare banks into tightening credit... which created more failures... which froze credit harder... which threatened to disrupt entire nations. Underlying realities may remain relatively stable, but panic itself hastens the very catastrophe feared.

Pervasive fear may infect even Christians. Evidence suggests that evangelicals, on average, give 2.5% of their income to their religion. We would hope that churches of Christ that imitate New Testament models give a more sacrificial percentage. Whatever it is, that percentage—as a *proportion*—need not diminish when personal economies

change. That is the beauty of the Lord's plan: Each should set funds aside *in keeping with his income*. But that sensible plan matters little to “unreasoning fear, unjustified terror.” In a stampede to self-destruction, good sense and generosity are the first victims.

Sadly, many charities fall with the markets. Nervous supporters decide to be “realistic” and cut back to “essentials.” But what is more real than God, His mission and His power? What is more essential than sharing the Bread of Life? Secondary matters may change. But faith keeps its priorities clear and trusts God to keep His promises:

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33).

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion (2 Corinthians 9:8,11).

Such magnificent promises call us ever higher. Just for illustration's sake, suppose our folks also average giving 2.5% of their income. Even in hard times, surely growing

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**BRM
Launched
in Sierra
Leone
See p. 2.**

BRM for Sierra Leone

By Ron Pottberg

This notice serves to launch the roll out of the Business Reply Mail (BRM) envelopes for the country of Sierra Leone. We have had such a resounding success in the country of Zimbabwe that we are looking on a priority basis for other countries that need and can use this system to keep students studying. We already have over 100,000 WBS students studying in Sierra Leone, but the majority of these are High School age students with no funding to be able to mail back their lesson answers. We have set up drop boxes in strategic points in the larger cities, but there are many students who have no way to mail their answers back to their teachers.

“We have 100,000 students studying in Sierra Leone....”

Our representative in the field, Jacob Sessay, has negotiated with the postal authorities and has a good price that makes it possible for students to continue their studies without being too much of a burden on WBS teachers. We have printed the BRM envelopes, and they are now available through the Cedar Park WBS office by calling 877-393-0211. Please send an envelope with each set of lessons going to students in Sierra Leone. These will then be returned to our Service Center in Freetown and forwarded to Cedar Park for sorting and then forwarding to teachers.

We realize that in Sierra Leone we have four drop boxes and special instructions for your students. We will



Jacob Sessay (right) is a key WBS worker in Sierra Leone.

send an information sheet to churches in Sierra Leone to better explain this new BRM process. For questions about mailings to Sierra Leone, please contact the WBS office at: 512-345-8190.

I will visit Sierra Leone in December to assure that our mail is moving smoothly and work with our team in country for student recruiting and follow up.



Islam: Enraged or Engaged?



By Robin Cannon

Which religion controls or heavily influences over one fifth of the world's population? Islam! Most Westerners view Islam with a mixture of mystery and fear.

We know its impact on our own daily lives. Often we are bewildered, even amazed by the suicidal dedication of its radicals. There are many reasons to be wary of those who seek to destroy our faith and our lives.

Most Muslims, however, do not adhere to the violent fanaticism that captures the headlines. Cultures within Islam are many and varied. Yet all Islam has only one kind of person: individuals who need Jesus.

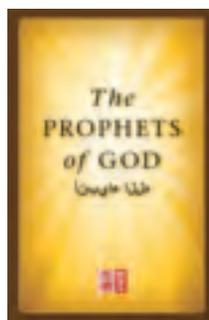
At World Bible School, we are acutely aware of the different world

views that the Gospel must address. Now the Lord has opened doors for us to prepare courses that specifically target Muslims. How should we all, as evangelists, engage the world of Islam? What Muslim will listen to the Word amidst the din of radical clamoring? Is there a way for us to make a difference?

Most Muslims lack any direct reading or study of the Bible. Some might have a passing familiarity with the central events of biblical history. Yet the Koran claims to honor the Bible's greatest prophets. To know more about these prophets, Muslims must turn to the Bible as the only detailed source. With this in mind, WBS is preparing a study booklet on the prophets of the Old Testament. Encountering these will give them serious pause for thought. The flow of inspired history will introduce them to

Jesus, the one true Messiah.

Through the correspondence method, we have discovered inroads to people and places we may never reach otherwise. Already we have enjoyed remarkable successes. They suggest the potential for greater impact as we develop new and better materials crafted especially for Muslim seekers.



With your help, we anticipate releasing two study courses in early 2009. The first course will be titled *The Prophets of God*, and the second will be *Isa al Masih* (Jesus the Messiah).

Islam seeks to spread its influence further. Its militants plan more attacks. Will the next alarming report frighten you? Will it enrage you? Or will you

let it spur you to *engage* more effectively in taking the Good News to Muslims? We urgently solicit your prayers and help as WBS prepares for a greater impact on the world of Islam.



Going Strong at 100

By John Reese

World Bible School recently held its first Dinner in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Keith Copeland, who coordinates the WBS program at Adams Boulevard, introduced us to Irene Trask. Born January 2, 1908, Irene remains vitally active with the WBS teaching team. Every Wednesday

she spends two hours preparing mail to some 1,000 students (yes, a number like that every week). She makes visits for the church, which is so significant in her life. In addition, she volunteers two days a week at the Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville and participates quarterly in the American Red Cross blood drive.



Keith Copeland and Irene Trask

What a pleasure to meet Irene, Keith and so many wonderful partners in sharing the Gospel! She is just one example of many devoted, caring Christians who diligently share the Good News of Jesus with WBS. What a powerful example this remarkable centenarian is for anyone younger—which includes  virtually all of us!

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 world-wide network of Christians teaching the Gospel with correspondence courses, both printed and over the Internet.



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Material Orders only: 877-393-0211

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Ministry site: www.worldbibleschool.net

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Action! World Bible School

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*Periodicals Postage Paid at Cedar Park, Texas,
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Above & Beyond by Kevin Rhodes

“She’s my mother in the faith!”

It doesn’t get any better than this. A teenage WBS student in Africa studies with a diligent, caring WBS teacher in Louisiana. He’s baptized, pursues a life of ministry, and helps plant dozens of churches near his home. They continue to correspond. He proclaims her his “mother in the faith” and names his firstborn son, Alfred, after her own son. Then—after 27 years of a loving and nurturing relationship from afar—they meet *face-to-face!*

That’s exactly right. On September 11th, **Naomi Hunt**—at 89 years young—met **Sylvester Imogoh** from Nigeria at her apartment. (The 20 second video of the moment is pretty fun. See it at with the feature article at www.christianchronicle.org.)

Better still, within weeks of that first encounter, we reunited Naomi and Sylvester at WBS dinners in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The crowds stood and cheered. Tears were shed. And *everybody* praised God for how He used this little woman to impact thousands on the other side of the world. Sylvester personally shared this tribute: “Miss Naomi is how it all started. We love and cherish her. We will ever remain thankful to her for the great gift of salvation she has given to us—and to hundreds and thousands through us. She is the one God used to start a mighty work in a small way.”

Hmm. *Isn’t that the case with all WBS teachers?*

By the way, be on the lookout for a wonderfully encouraging WBS dinner that might be scheduled in your area. Let us know if your congregation would like to help us sponsor/host a dinner near you too.



FAITH *in Action!*

WBS-NLB Partnership Works Well

By Erwin Panday and Felix Garlitos

In the Philippines two international ministries—World Bible School (WBS), coordinated by Erwin Panday, and New Life Behavior (NLB), represented by Felix Garlitos—share a great partnership.

In January 2008, the Philippines celebrated its Bible Society's "National Bible Week." WBS and NLB spearheaded distribution in the New Bilibid Prisons, the



This portable baptistry stays busy in the Philippines.

national penitentiary with over 20,000 male inmates.

Using PBS Bibles, WBS and NLB teachers started classes among inmates in cells, corridors, halls, shade—anywhere from five to fifty inmates could gather. By April the harvest began with four men baptized, followed by five in June, six in July, nineteen in August, and thirty in September. Many are more expected using a portable baptistry sent by NLB President Buck Griffith.

NLB and WBS lessons became accredited as subjects in "values formation"

by the Alternative Learning System of the Department of Education operating inside prisons. To date, some 400 inmates have taken NLB and WBS lessons. Eight inmate instructors and four prison ministers of the churches of Christ conduct 24 classes weekly.

Felix R. Garlitos of the Central church of Christ in Quezon City is the accredited Religious Volunteer Officer for the Bureau of Corrections. With Cedar Park's permission, he translated English WBS lessons into Pilipino. NLB lessons had already been translated in 2005, with permission from Dr. Hillery M. Motsinger. Translations prove very effective.

Felix first visited the New Bilibid Prisons in July 2003 when invited by a condemned convict, Lito Jatulan. By January 2004, the Death Row church of Christ began, led by Lito, with 37 baptized among the condemned.

Prison ministry is just the beginning. WBS and NLB are again joining forces for pilot classes in public high schools. Another pilot will start soon among barangays, the basic community organization in barrios, towns and cities. Please pray for this teamwork to flourish.

Gospel Chariot Report 2008

By George Funk

2008 began with delays for repairs for our Gospel Chariot vehicles. Once the year got going, however, we never looked back. Through September, over 800 souls have been baptized. Since 1994, we have baptized over 8,000 and started 80 congregations. One



of our main methods of evangelism has always been World Bible School. Teachers in the USA do the teaching and we do the reaching.

This is a wonderful and practical way to evangelize. We have Chariots that travel from South Africa and as far north as Kenya. As we travel, we distribute WBS lessons, sowing the Gospel seed. These names are then channeled to teachers through WBS in Austin. Over 2,000,000 lessons have been distributed already. This year we printed 25,000 Bibles in Cape Town. This is a good quality Bible with 100 pages of helps on



One of the red trucks from the Gospel Chariot Mission

how to study God's word, how to become a Christian and how to start a congregation in a new area. In the Bible's front are all the addresses of WBS offices in Southern Africa. This is a very exciting program.

People in Africa are hungry for the Word of God. Gospel Chariot Mission's work with World Bible School is a classic example of teamwork. More exciting is the way African brethren cooperate and participate. The church of Christ in Africa is in good hands.

Our ministry at Gospel Chariot Missions is on the up. In addition to chariots travelling and having Gospel meetings, we also have offices in gateway cities with downtown congregations. These offices have short term





Preaching from the Gospel Chariot

Bible schools where new converts can come to study God's word. These same offices are linked to Nations University where students who complete WBS can get a Bible degree free of charge.

This is a work that brings people to Jesus, but it also looks towards maturing them. God is in control. For each of us He has a plan: to love Him, to serve Him and to seek to fulfill our mission to bring people to Jesus and make this world a better place. When we do this, we enrich our own lives in the process. God is good!



A Voice from the Desert

By John and Martie D'Alton

Editor's note: *The receptionist said to me, "John, someone is phoning from Namibia, and is difficult to understand. Can you take this call?" I spoke with Henocho Upindi, a policeman in Namibia, south-western Africa. Having read a J.C. Choate book, Henocho wanted World Bible School lessons, and immediate help in becoming a Christian. Moments later I had emailed John and Martie at Tsumeb, Namibia. Within days they had crossed that desert-like country to meet Henocho. Here is their initial report.*

We are very tired, but it does not matter because the angels are singing redemption's sweet song. We were very blessed this weekend. The person whose name you gave us, Henocho, resulted in a baptism soon after we met.

Despite car troubles, we drove 525 km (328 miles) from Tsumeb to Divundu.

At Mukwe, we picked up Tsumeb Bible Academy graduates Klaus and Raphael so they could get to know Henocho. Finally, at 4:00 p.m., we met Henocho. He knew his Bible well and was baptized after a two-hour study. He is a very serious young man and needs you all to keep him in your prayers. We then drove Klaus, Raphael and Henocho to their respective homes—another 70 km (44 miles).



John D'Alton baptizes Henocho.

Henocho asked us to stay over another day for further Bible studies. Luckily, we were able to get a room for another night. Klaus and Raphael asked us to see their headman on Saturday morning. He already had great interest because of previous studies with Klaus. Immediately after our Bible studies, the headman and his wife wanted to be baptized. That afternoon, we also studied for three more hours with Henocho. What a weekend! We returned home to Tsumeb, having driven 1,230 km (770 miles). That was a long distance for only two days, but it was worth it.

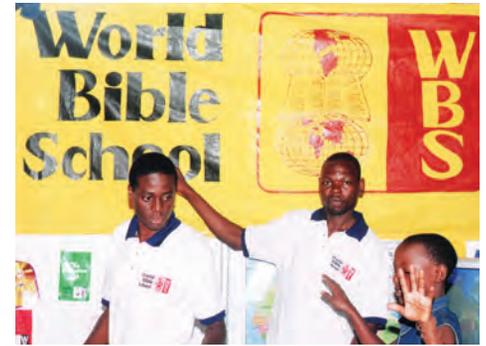


Ugandan Trade Fair

Darla Bennett recently visited World Bible School's offices in Cedar Park. Her experiences include North and South America and Africa. Her parents, Les and Patsy Bennett, were long-time missionaries in Brazil.



Darla Bennett



Fred Sankumba (center) at the Fair

For over six years, Darla has served as a full-time missionary in Uganda. Her home congregation there is the Kampala church of Christ in the capital. She reports that Fred Sankumba and fellow-members, especially the youth, were again promoting WBS at the annual Trade Fair. The Fair typically sees 5,000 new students enrolled. WBS Introduction Lessons expedite some 1,600 in beginning Bible studies immediately.

Uganda has 80 districts, of which 29 do not have a church of Christ. A recent national meeting of church leaders committed to plant the church in every remaining district by August of 2010. The Kampala church itself is reaching out to surrounding rural areas. Contact Darla (darla@kampala-ministry.org) about workers to assist this outreach.



Faith not Fear cont'd from page 1

faith can double that to 5%. With maturity, we can aim to surpass the Old Testament's elementary level of 10%. When faith rises up like this, God is honored and His cause flourishes.

Faith is easy to claim in comfortable times. But trouble tests what truly drives us: either *faith* or *fear*. According to Scripture, fear shrinks back, retreats and finally fails. But faith rejoices in trials, presses forward and succeeds in God's strength. In your end of year giving, prove that you are motivated by faith, not fear. Resolve to use dark, fearful times to shine your faith most brightly—especially for advancing the Good News over bad news!



We Are So Excited!

By Si Muraicho

We thank our Lord for the World Bible School work here. Our students are increasing daily, and we are as busy as ever. We are so excited!

With our current economic situation, we never thought that students would continue with their lessons since most of the people here



Si Muraicho is a key WBS worker in Zimbabwe.

are hungry and really depressed. It's amazing that the numbers have increased. They are eager to continue to learn from the word of God. It is true that man cannot live on food alone. The word of God is an essential part of our everyday life. This country needs people who are controlled by the word of God. Please remember us in your prayers.

August was as busy as ever as we received loads and loads of mail from nearly every part of Zimbabwe. We are really excited about the Lord's work here. We pray that it will continue to be like this and that it will bear fruits and many will be saved through WBS lessons. From the letters we receive from our students, we are happy to say these lessons have molded and shaped many people's lives, both the young and old. To all those who support WBS work, we continue to say thank you. Your effort is not in vain. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

Editor's note: *Si works full time with Alice Mhlanga in the WBS office at Avondale, Harare. Each month, they forward 60 to 100 pounds of students' answers, using the Business Reply Mail (BRM) to WBS teachers via our WBS office in Texas. Si's article is a composite of several emails from her monthly reports.*



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Josiah: Another New Christian!

Editor's note: *Here's an excerpt from a recent email from Alice Mhlanga, in Harare:*

...yesterday we went to the Post Office to collect WBS mail. The postmaster was happy to see us because we "had clogged his sorting room with WBS mail."

We recently immersed Josiah here, an eighteen year old WBS student. He was so delighted to be a Christian! He's just one example of many. God has opened a wide door for the Gospel--especially for the youth. Names of students from high schools wishing to enroll with WBS keep on coming. Good works are happening here in spite of the difficulties we face. Many people have lost hope in the worldly things which are so hard to have and are turning to another hope. That hope is Jesus the Christ.

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WBS dinners are wonderful, encouraging events that also help us fund evangelism. Join us on Monday, December 8, at the Marriott Nashville Airport: info@worldbibleschool.net.

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Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts are ideal ways to remember a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift is used to "teach the Word and reach the world." Upon receipt of your gift, an appropriate letter of acknowledgement will be sent naming the honoree, and you, as the thoughtful donor.

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did you know?

A continuing series of WBS facts...

2,000,000 souls studying at a time.



That's two million. *At a time.* And it's not because of a recent growth spurt. WBS has taught numbers approaching two million at a time for a number of years now. And that's only the beginning. As creative, far-reaching Internet technologies are implemented in the coming months, the number of WBS students will grow.

Who are these WBS students? Truth-seekers. People who have responded themselves, wanting to study the Bible. Friends and family that have been referred by these WBS students. They learn the Good News of Jesus, the Truth of the Bible, the plan of salvation, how to live the Christian life. They are in virtually every nation on earth. They study Bible lessons that are printed and via the Internet. Will they all continue their studies? No. But like the parable of the seed, the good soil that receives the seed of the Gospel produces fruit one hundred times over.

Reeses Honored

John and Beth Reese were recently honored at Abilene Christian University's Summit lectures. To a standing ovation, they were presented a plaque for "continuing a family heritage of missions." John works tirelessly for WBS; Beth is a missionary care expert with InterMission ministry and Westover Hills church of Christ. Having spent over 16 years in the mission field in Africa, the Reeses have



raised four children—each either serving or forming a team to serve in international mission work: Marcus (Papua New Guinea), Tammy Short (Italy), Danny (Angola), and David (Tanzania). Thank you, John, Beth, and kids for your service and example!



Upcoming with WBS...

Mission and Vision

2009 - 2013

Glorifying God by boldly looking ahead.



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