

Action!



Teaching the Word.
Reaching the World!

Volume 72, Number 5

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Malena Rampy shares the Good News and some good shoes! See page 4.

Eager for Titus 2:14 Good Deeds!

How can Jesus' life be summarized into several sentences? His ministry was so packed with purpose as to defy a full recording (John 21:25). Yet Peter condensed it all in this way:

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all...how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him (Acts 10:36-38).

Good News and good works went together for Jesus. They also combine for His followers. World Bible School is a case in point. WBS focuses well on "telling the Good News of peace." Hearts that beat high for sharing the Good News, beat equally for "doing good."

Sometimes the deeds go ahead, paving the way for the Good News. Practical compassion generates enquiry and opens doors. In such cases, WBS often serves as an effective follow-through method.

Sometimes the Good News goes first. WBS

often introduces caring Christians to new needs and their solutions. In WBS courses and in teacher training, we emphasize Christ-like love—expressed in teaching and benevolence.

We also urge wisdom lest good intentions sabotage the Good News. WBS teachers who send money or material gifts directly to students tend to ruin the teaching process. Though well-meaning, they unwisely arouse mercenary motives that undermine spiritual learning. Scammers divert precious resources from genuine seekers. (For insights, request *Missions and Money*.)

There are many *constructive* ways to serve the needy. You can help WBS to fulfill Jesus' mission to the poor (see the top stories on pages 2 and 3). Build character to equip societies for finding godly solutions. Work through responsible leaders on-site. They can check the facts properly, and determine the best ways to administer aid. This issue supplies several ideas that remind all Christians to "be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good" (Titus 3:8).

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Inside:
Ways to Help
the Needy

BRM: Breakthrough for the Poor

By John Reese

The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach Good News to the poor... (Luke 4:18).

Jesus launched His public ministry by reading from the synagogue's scroll. He claimed to be anointed (the Christ). He framed His mission with Isaiah's memorable commission "to preach Good News to the poor." See how He loves the needy. See their place of priority.

Each trained disciple has the same heart for the poor, and this raises questions for correspondence teaching. First, how can the uneducated and the illiterate benefit? Second, even among the literate, how can the poor afford postage for correspondence?



Pray for the poor.

To the first question, the answer is, "The illiterate benefit indirectly." In developing nations, the educated group tends to take leadership. The WBS strategy is for Bible training to reach enough literate people to influence the rest of society. In Nigeria correspondence has helped to establish some 4000 congregations in 60 years. *Many WBS students have reached their non-literate neighbors.*

To the second, the answer is, "WBS keeps adapting for the poor to correspond." Years ago, Jimmie Lovell felt this burden for the needy. He sent funds to Sunday O. Ekanem who bought large quantities of postage stamps in Nigeria. WBS teachers then provided these stamps to their Nigerian students for returning answers. We highlighted Sunday O. Ekanem in the May, 2008 *Action!* Sadly we must report that he recently passed away. Jimmie and he set the pace for us. To the day of their respective deaths, they continued to bring Gospel opportunities to the poor.



Washington Mhlanga brings BRM lessons to Cedar Park's Janet Gunter and Mary Nell Kemper.

Eventually, inflation made pre-purchased stamps untenable. WBS, however, kept moving forward. The Pottbergs and Reeses set up Service Centers within WBS-intensive nations, allowing poor students to return their answers using local instead of international postage. Today, Service Centers enable many hundreds of thousands to correspond.

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The Touch of Jesus in Zimbabwe

By Caron Guillo

The aged man with sunken cheeks and rheumy eyes was too weak to walk into the church building. He sat in the dirt, sun glistening on his chocolate skin. He muttered in his native language Shona, "I am just waiting to die. I am so tired of being hungry."

Our photographer Justin Nash and Alvaro Dos Santos were led as honored guests to a scanty feast. Justin whispered, "I can't eat this." Dos Santos understood. For years he and his wife, Debbie, have lived Jesus' compassion among Zimbabwe's destitute. "Take a bite to show your gratitude," he instructed,



Washing before a meal

"then pick up your plate and come with me." The photographer offered his meal to the elderly African who dipped his head in thanks. Immediately, he passed the plate to a small girl beside him. They shared a few

handfuls together then passed the dish to the next child. And so it went. The suffering man did not think to hoard his rare meal.

"That's the African way," explained Dos Santos who is Portuguese by birth, a shoemaker by trade and a passionate man of God. He and Debbie operate a wide network of feeding centers in 30 villages that provide 200,000 meals a month.




Debbie and Alvaro Dos Santos

I first met the Dos Santos family through Paula and Lynn Leverett who had come into contact with Zimbabwe's needs through World Bible School work with John and Beth Reese. In 2006, and again in 2007, I accompanied the Leveretts to witness Zimbabwe's hurting people and to serve them in Jesus' name.

At Rukweza church and orphan feeding station, my heart pounded with joy and compassion for the 117 children who, one-by-one,

offered their hands in greeting. They wore tattered clothes and worn shoes—or no shoes at all. Though they smiled, their eyes were somber, holding too much heartache at such tender ages. They bowed their heads and clapped their hands in appreciation before receiving a plate of sadza—the local cornmeal staple.

This enchanting land is in desperate need. And the church is responding. The Dos Santos' ministry provides food, blankets and medicines. The Leveretts and WBS workers mobilize help for orphans' school fees, HIV and other medications, glasses, wheelchairs, drip-irrigation, clothing and more. Christians become Jesus' hands and feet, touching the needy with His love and compassion.

Editor's note: Find more of Caron's finely described story and information at www.worldbibleschool.net. Click on "What's New?" The same applies each time you see the symbol .





“Ready, Set, Go” for PNG

By Art Ford

Wikipedia describes Papua New Guinea (PNG) as one of the most diverse countries on Earth, with over 850 indigenous languages and at least as many traditional societies in a population of just under 6 million. Only 18 per cent of its people live in urban centres. The country is among the world’s least explored, culturally and geographically, and many undiscovered species of plants and animals are thought to exist in PNG’s interior.

Churches of Christ have developed in PNG since 1971. By the mid 1980s, the number of World Bible School students was exploding. Since then enrollment has waned due to a number of factors coming together. These include the absence of advertising, the currency is



John Kerenga family

worth only about one-third of what it was then and inflation has been rampant. As a result of the final two factors, it takes over five hours of work at the minimum wage to cover the cost of a stamp to send a lesson to the States. Many can’t afford to study this way.

The time is right for new WBS initiatives! Brethren in PNG have given an overwhelmingly positive response to the concept of WBS assisting their outreach activities. Many people in PNG are eager to read and learn. Newspapers and other reading materials get passed on several times before being discarded.

Similar to **YOUTHREACH** activities in other countries, WBS now has two things that will assist both students and those living in rural areas where there is no vibrant cash economy.

We now have a local post office box within the country and a business reply mail (BRM) permit.

Enoch Mingo, the evangelist of the English speaking congregation on Boundary Road in Lae, has agreed to assist in recruiting students and forwarding lessons to WBS in Austin. Enoch, along with Miamel Golabe



Enoch, Rose, & Benaiah Mingo and Art Ford

(teacher at Melanesian Bible College), John Kerenga (preacher in Goroka) and Gaima Mokoane (preacher-farmer from Chimbu Province) have conducted a pilot project to recruit students from local high schools. Please pray for their efforts, and for correspondence to reach its full potential in PNG.



Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

Can you help the poor with WBS?

Is the Spirit of the Lord leading you, like Jesus, to share Good News with the poor? As a WBS teacher, you can go the extra mile by using Business Reply Mail when we implement that service in a needy nation. While we complain about gas prices, some WBS students literally must choose between a meal and a postage stamp. *We cannot let these highly receptive countries drop by the wayside.* As John Reese reminded us on page 2, the mission remains clear: “to preach Good News to the poor.” Despite a slow economy, most Americans have vastly more than most people. Since God blesses us so richly, He surely urges us to benefit others, especially the poorest who have so few opportunities.



How can your congregation help the poor? *Sponsor a WBS Service Center.* A Service Center lets a WBS student use domestic postage stamps. It collects the mail, then ships it to WBS for rapid forwarding to WBS teachers. A fully developed Service Center also facilitates follow up, passing requests to proven workers, and later emailing results to us and the WBS teacher. When you sponsor a WBS Service Center, you can impact an entire nation, yielding exciting reports each month and proving to be your church’s best investment ever in missions. Contact us to learn more.

Action!

EDITOR John Reese

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Good Deeds Worldwide



One group of our Kenyan orphans

WBS Leads to Orphan Care

By John and Mary Sue DeFore

Thomas Alwala, a World Bible School student, was baptized into Christ in 1998. He converted his father, who gave land for the church to build in their home community, Dirubi, Kenya. As our WBS follow-up worker, Thomas established four additional churches. He nurtured and matured these churches so well that they serve the needy. They help the old, ill and destitute by planting their crops, mending their houses and more.

Thomas dreamed of starting an orphanage in view of Kenya's hundreds of thousands of helpless orphans. Dirubi church members (most of whom struggle to feed their own families) took 45 orphans into their own homes. Two couples at Golf Course Rd. (GCR) church of Christ in Midland, Texas, began sending a small monthly amount to supplement the food allowance. As word spread, more GCR members helped.




Kenyan widows

In 2004, GCR church brought Maureen Mbuvi, our WBS coordinator from Nairobi, to Midland. We discussed Thomas' work for orphans, and the result was that our deacon for WBS was handed a check for \$5,000—the exact amount Thomas said was needed to build an orphanage in Dirubi. God prospered the effort in every way.

Currently, GCR members fund four orphanages in Kenya, supervised by our WBS workers. Two additional orphanages, now opening, bring the total housed to 470 orphans. Housing, daily meals, clothing, medical care and schooling at the orphanages costs \$11 per child. Needy widows are hired to be dorm mothers and cooks. An additional feeding program for children who cannot be housed and widows who cook for them provides one large meal daily for \$6. In all, about 900 are fed daily.

Our WBS student load at GRC has grown tremendously. We have hundreds of baptisms each year, and new churches are being planted all over Kenya. Spreading the Gospel led us into caring for widows and orphans. God has used one good work to bless us with more good works.

For example, another partner, Alfayo Bodi, has started four congregations. His follow up with a deaf WBS student led to starting a deaf congregation in Rodi. The other congregations took up a collection to buy a new bicycle and a postal box for the deaf work. This is a large contribution, considering the poverty of these Christians. The reputation of Jesus and His church has spread throughout these areas. 

Olive Branch to Developing Nations

By Malena Rampy

Olive Branch Ministries introduces people to the Gospel by compassionately ministering to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Our campaigners bring a variety of skills to work alongside Bible teachers, dentists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and counselors. Other activities include helping with orphans, VBS and construction. We focus on developing countries, especially Nicaragua and Peru.




Carpenters for Christ: Fritz Barnett, Jordan Swim and Charlie Culp

World Bible School is critical to the evangelism on our trips to Peru. Each person receives an Introduction Lesson as they leave the clinic. The local church members use WBS to start teaching those who want Bible study at the clinic. We also bring advanced WBS courses to leave with the church for follow up studies. WBS is a great tool for even new members of the church to be able to study the Bible with



Emily Swim cares for an abandoned orphan

those who have come to the medical clinic.

One of our veterans is Linda Reville who handles orders at WBS. Her fluency in Spanish is especially useful in medical, counseling and Bible teaching situations. 





Character Comes to School

By Ken and Judy Kendall-Ball

Hope is being sown school by school in a not-so-small corner of South Africa. God has provided Ken and Judy Kendall-Ball



Ken, school children and Nosi

an exciting opportunity to influence a generation of school-age children and through them a nation. They use World Bible School courses in conjunction with Lessons to Live By (LTLB) in public schools to promote moral regeneration at grassroots. They offer the WBS Children's Course to older children in primary schools, and the Master Series to teachers, principals, older students and their families. LTLB is a Bible-based curriculum that develops character through Bible stories that highlight principles for living.

God's hand was evident as Ken and Judy gained access to the official responsible for education in South Africa's Eastern Cape province. When he saw the LTLB curriculum, he declared, "I have been praying for something for my children for 6 years. Today I have found it!" With his partnership, and the blessing of members in the provincial legislature, 11 schools

with a population exceeding 3,600 students have enrolled already.

One such school is Masi-bulele Primary, located in a



Nosi and school children

squatter area near East London. The principal, Mrs. Nosi Ndzengu, started the school 20 years ago under a tree. Now she has over 800 students. Nosi also cares for over 100 AIDS orphans. Often at her own expense, she feeds 'her' children physically and mentally. At such schools hope is being sown as Ken and Judy help with curriculum, and model and share the Gospel.

The Eastern Province, about the size of Florida, has thousands of schools. The government allocates about \$75 per year for each student, which is not enough for the basic supplies. Therefore, when the LTLB team offers character-developing curriculum, at no cost to the school, the response is immediate and positive. Each child can have a year's worth of this curriculum for just \$5.

As each school is enrolled, we forge special relationships with students and teachers. We conduct workshops for school and community leaders and parents. When they learn the Bible base for character traits, it is easy to offer them further Scripture studies through WBS.

Dedicated Christian teachers from the North Main church of Christ in Weatherford, Texas have written LTLB lessons for Grades 1 through 5, with a planned scope through Grade 9. The Kendall-Balls, with help from 12 AIM students, produce, distribute and at times teach the curriculum in South African schools and churches. They offer hope for the future and prepare the way for God's call through the Gospel.



BRM: Breakthrough for the Poor (from p. 2)

Now WBS Service Centers are keys to another solution. Take Zimbabwe for example. By 2006 the bad economy made local postage unaffordable and reduced student numbers to a trickle. In 2007, with the help of Alice Mhlanga at the WBS Service Center in Harare, we initiated Business Reply Mail (BRM). Now, American teachers send a BRM envelope with each WBS course to students in Zimbabwe, allowing them to return course answers free of charge. The cost (typically the equivalent of between one and two local stamps) is passed along to participating WBS teachers and their congregations. They take on this extra expense willingly—to the extent of their generous abilities—because BRM serves so well "to preach Good News to the poor."



Kenyan orphanage



Zimbabwe orphans

Here is Jesus' manifesto, bringing together two components so close to the divine heart: the Gospel and the poor.

"The poor," of course, can be taken spiritually, meaning those who recognize their desperate need. But who best recognize their neediness? Most often, those who feel the pains of poverty. They are desperate for solutions, both physical and spiritual. As James asked, "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith?" (James 2:5).

Certainly our experience reinforces James' point. Ruined by oppression, Zimbabweans now number among the poorest of the poor. With over 80% unemployment and 2,000,000% inflation, meager incomes soon become useless. A loaf of bread costs 100 billion Zimbabwe dollars! Half the population faces the threat of famine. Malnutrition, malaria, AIDS and violence have cut the average life expectancy to about 35.

Amid such bad news, BRM brings Good News. Within months of the 2007 **YOUTH-REACH** launch (using BRM), 50,000 Zimbabweans enrolled. Word spread so rapidly that referrals for WBS studies now approaches 400,000—such significant numbers as to spread the Good News to illiterate people also.

BRM has catapulted Zimbabwe from the bottom to the top of the WBS charts, in the most unlikely circumstances. Traumatic elections recently smeared messy headlines across the world. Amid Zimbabwe's chaos, the postal system has remained amazingly functional. Through powerful prayers, Gospel lessons continue to beam bright hope into oppressive darkness.



Bono on AIDS

It was an unlikely event. Bono, singer for the Irish U2 rock band, gave the keynote address at the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast. He declared,

"If your brother becomes poor," the Scriptures say, "and cannot maintain himself... you shall maintain him." ... It's not a coincidence that in the Scriptures, poverty is mentioned more than 2,100 times.... 6,500 Africans are still dying every day of a preventable, treatable disease for lack of drugs we can buy at any drugstore. This is not about Charity; this is about Justice and Equality. Because there's no way we can look at what's happening in Africa and, if we're honest, conclude that deep down, we really accept that Africans are equal to us. Anywhere else in the world, we wouldn't accept it. Look at what happened in South East

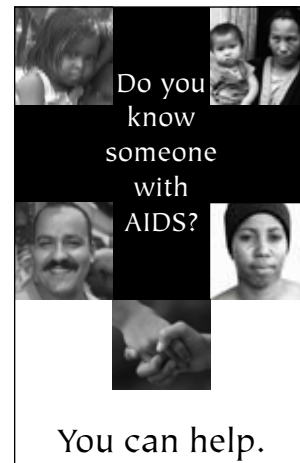
Asia with the Tsunami: 150,000 lives lost.... In Africa, 150,000 lives are lost every month. A tsunami every month! And it's a completely avoidable catastrophe!

Many treat AIDS sufferers like lepers. What would Jesus do? He would touch and heal the lepers, and show His followers how to treat them. WBS has done a little of the latter by preparing a book for its teachers and students entitled *Do You Know Someone With AIDS? You Can Help*.

Of the world's 33 million who have AIDS, about 22 million are in Sub Saharan Africa where the great majority of WBS students are located. Our 10,000 teachers form a marvelous delivery system. So we encourage WBS teachers to send these booklets to their students, who can become ambassadors for Christian

treatment and prevention. The booklet also introduces WBS courses for the spiritual hope that is so essential for all well being. To order these booklets, at 15 cents each, email orders@worldbibleschool.net or phone toll free 877-393-0211.

To give you an idea of how missionaries are engaging social needs, including the AIDS crisis, we publish here part of Patrick Kenée's most recent report.



We Must Show Them Jesus' Love

By Patrick Kenée

Our Christian mission preschool continues to flourish in Sebokeng, a large township south of Johannesburg and Soweto, South Africa. In 2007 around 70 children (up to age 8) attended from severely disadvantaged slums. We supply them two meals a day and give them a basic Christian education. Last year at least seven of the parents were among the 90 added to the Lord's body, four house churches were established, over 2,000 WBS students were enrolled, and 32 church leaders were trained.



Patrick Kenée

in their shack environment. Often, they have to scavenge in the refuse for food. We often give them necessary clothing. All of this care assists in reaching the children and their families for the Lord.

Our Sebokeng team has been trained in HIV/AIDS counseling because of the alarming statistics that nearly 30% of our population of 42 million is HIV positive. At local schools we teach courses on God's Answer to HIV/AIDS. We also use Roger Dickson's course material on Life Skills. This focuses on the character traits of Jesus and how to live a fruitful life as a positive influence in their society.

On our Sebokeng campus we support a family of four boys, the Mokoenas. Their father infected the mother with AIDS, and she died. The father was into crime, got caught, sentenced to jail and died there due to AIDS. The boys stayed with an uncle who abused them. So we now care for them. We also assist others in the community with food and clothing when similar events occur.

Already this year we have held four tent meetings at Sebokeng. These



Meal time

meetings yielded 800 new WBS students and 45 people have been added to our Lord's family. In total, we have enrolled about 2,200 new WBS students.

In May we hosted Fielden and Janet Allison, long term missionaries now based in Tanzania. They specialize in helping the family in Africa. For two days they gave fantastic, in-depth and uplifting lessons in Sebokeng. They dealt with God's view of marriage, and the roles of husbands and wives. Nearly 100 church leaders attended these seminars. This weekend aided in repairing and strengthening family units, and in overcoming obstacles in marriages. **WWW**

2008's school enrollment is up to 76 children. Christian Relief Foundation helps us serve most of the children. We need sponsors for the 24 remaining children. \$25 per month gives them two cooked meals a day, plus an education.

27 of these children have already lost a parent (usually due to HIV/AIDS). We must show them Jesus's love, care and protection through the hands of our teachers. Many of these children are abused



Blankets for kids





Honor/Memorial Contributors List

In Honor of.....

Jack & Inez Carney's 55th anniversary

Ron & Susan Pottberg

Louis & Janis Cartwright's anniversary

LaVerne Helm

Johnnie Coleman's friendship

Mary A. Burnham

Ron & Polly Connolly's friendship

John & Beth Reese

Isaac Daye

John & Beth Reese

David Dinnano's recent baptism into Christ

Bill & Odene Graham

Howard & Doris Dodd for being fantastic parents

Brad & Sandra Dodd

Ken & Bonnie Dunlap's birthdays

Ken & Teresa Craig

Dan Epler's birthday

Lydia M. Guillot

M/M Wendell Ferguson's friendship

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Jim & Freda Fullerton's friendship and faithful service

Jim & Sheri Hall

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M/M Robert W. Lashlee's anniversary

Matthew & Bonnie

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Dan & Brenda McVey's many years as missionaries to Ghana, West Africa

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John & Beth Reese's hard work for WBS

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Betty Spiess' 80th birthday

Maurice & Mary Nell

Kemper

Lee Ann Stillwell's birthday

James & Carol Snyder

Harvey Stow's work in Africa

Roy & Margaret Hill

Ruth Swart's 97th birthday

Aaron L. Swart

Tex & Mary Jane Williams' anniversary

Patsy Chandler

WBS Staff

Herman & Jeri Barnett

Mrs. Helen Young's 90th birthday

Judy Thomson

In Memory of.....

Emmer Altom, my sister

Fay Harrell

Mrs. Anders, Denise Norvell's mother

Mary C. Grubb

Ruth Ann Armor

Julie Keathley

Irene Arnett

Richard & Donna Pitcher

Barbara Bishop

Maurice & Mary Nell

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Doug & Myrtle Smith

Clyde Graham

June Sampson

Gene Graham

Daisy J. Knickerbocker

Nellie Graham, my beautiful Christian mother

Murray & Joyce Patterson

Ora Green

Betty Colburn

Fannie Hattemer

Bill & Jamey Ritzel

Virginia Hearn, my wife of 57 yrs.

W.L. Hearn

Floyd Henry

Maurice & Mary Nell

Kemper

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Charles Jackson

Frances Jackson

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Mary Margaret Hukle

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June Sampson

Jim & Verbenia Delashaw

Clifford Kindall, former WBS teacher

Ruth Kindall

Raymond Lafollete

Bob & Barbara Penick

Marguerite Lundy, my friend and sister in Christ

Reba McCormack

Macca

The Sam Epperson Family

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Mrs. Norvell, Lance Norvell's mother

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Perry Ostrom

Wilma Donaldson

Beverly Parker

Bob & Wanda Belonie

Dennis Parsons, my precious husband

Mary L. Parsons

Bobbie Richardson

Lynda Holbert

Byron Robertson

Betty Miller

John Rogers

June Sampson

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Betty Colburn

Shirley Pevey Russell

Richard & Elaine Gibson

Katherine Sellers

Canyon Lake Church of Christ

Arrie Mae Smith

Mildred Bailey

Alton Clyde Smith

Brown & Sammie Taylor

& Steve

Charles W. Smith

M.A. & Juanice Beard

Nora Jean Smith

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Uva D. Wiemuth

Valinda Bruce

Delbert Warwick

Leonard & Isla Pringle

Dustin Wells

James & Coylene Cates

Clay Whitlock

Peggy Sullivan

<

did you know?

A continuing series of WBS facts...



25,000,000 Enrolled!

God has touched at least that many *individuals* through Bible studies from World Bible School.



What is the significance of such a big number? Most important is each *individual* made in God's image!

Among the many enrolled, each person has been paid for in divine blood. Each is a beloved soul for whom God made the promise, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). Yet, for each, fulfillment of that promise depends on Gospel messengers like you and me.

How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:14).

Each individual has requested Bible studies. WBS has linked each to a personal tutor—a caring Christian like you and me. Each has enjoyed free access to quality Bible courses and relationships. Above all, each has received special opportunities to claim the promise of Romans.

Each year, nearly 1,000,000 new *individuals* enroll for printed WBS courses in English (not counting WBS in other languages and media). Similar rates have continued for many years. Officially, WBS began 35 years ago, when Jimmie Lovell gave this unique method its name. Actually, this evangelism by grass-roots members was in full swing before then. So 25,000,000 seems quite conservative.

But the point isn't the large number. The point is connecting each enrollee with a friend who shares the Good News. The point is... the *individual*.



Upcoming with WBS...

Wrapping Up a Golden Year!



2008

What were your 2008 highlights? Inspire others with the gift of your best experiences, stories, and quotes. Let's wrap up this year of outreach in style!



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