

# Action!



Teaching the Word.  
Reaching the World!

Volume 73, Number 5

November 2009



By John Reese

**'T**is the season!

Typically this time of year unwraps a wonderful sense of well-being and good will. May this season be no different for you and your loved ones!

Sure, the times seem hard. We at World Bible School feel the pain as much as anyone. Deep cuts in WBS translate literally to unreached souls. It has broken our hearts to cut \$91,000 from advertising, which means some 91,000 less enrolled for Bible studies in 2009. Every one of our small, hard-working staff has taken pay cuts. As you know by now, we had to cancel the September *Action!* As a first since the paper began in 1962, that is truly tragic.

Such news might seem a cause for pessimism. But we believe in God's sovereign mastery of this and every situation. Is it His will for evangelistic outreach to slow down? Absolutely not! He has plainly revealed His will "that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored" (2 Thessalonians 3:1). As the New King James Version says, may the word of the Lord "run swiftly"! Where precious souls

are at stake, unnecessary slowness is no part of God's plan.

What good can possibly come from a slow-down? God uses it to challenge us to keep His priorities. Even in tough times, His Great Commission remains "Great." He calls us all to pray more earnestly, and to give more sacrificially like the Macedonians whose poverty yielded greater generosity. Small faith can give from a surplus. True faith gives when it hurts. Costly faith honors God and His revealed priorities.

Declining economies tend to increase receptivity. People who feel more need seek more help from God. Today's economic climate creates a golden opportunity, the perfect time to increase advertising and student recruiting. Will you, in faith, join us to reach seekers at home and abroad? Help us to connect with those 91,000, and many more.

We greet trials of many kinds with "pure joy," for they produce in us persistence, character and greater fruitfulness (James 1; John 15). So we welcome this season and every season with genuine delight and confidence. "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

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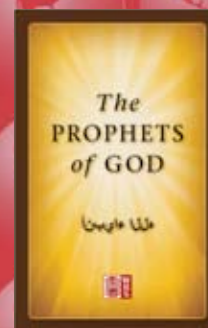
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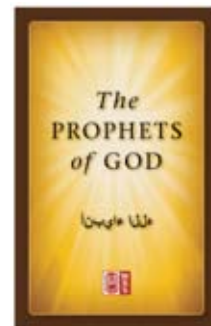


New  
Course  
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# The Reachable Fringe

## Announcing a New WBS Course



By Robin Cannon

On September 12, 2001, I went to get gas at a station near my workplace. The events of the previous day—now infamous as 9/11—were bouncing around my brain. In the little store I noted that the proprietor was middle-eastern. As the shop was empty I stirred up courage to ask, “Sir, you’re a Muslim, aren’t you?” He nodded gravely. So I asked, “Well, what do you think of yesterday?” He immediately grew livid, but not at me. He fretted and fumed and finally said deliberately in his distinct Arabian accent, “I wish they would find those guys and cut every one of their fingers off!”

That same afternoon I visited our neighbor, Hassam. Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, he was a very warm and gracious person, an engineer for FedEx. I asked him how he had been treated. He said that people had been just great, even protective.

Then he said something interesting to me, “I am not a particularly religious person....”

I have come to realize that these two Muslims are typical of many more. They are Muslim in name, but not in overt practice (like many who call themselves Christians). A missionary once told me that in years with African Muslims, he never found one that wasn’t a tribal ancestor worshiper at heart. Whether in Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia, India or elsewhere, many millions wear a thin veneer of Islam. Yet they live on the fringes of our own awareness, and in that sense they are the reachable fringe. Ninety percent of our view of Muslims is heavily influenced by the 10% of the radicals who seem to get 100% of the attention. Ninety percent of the Muslim world may get little news coverage, but they certainly warrant our interest.

In the quest to share the Bible message with more people, WBS gladly announces the first printing of *The Prophets of God*, a course aimed specifically at Muslims. We are

grateful for the donors who made this possible. *The Prophets* is designed to replace *God Has Spoken* as an initial course after the Introduction. Soon we hope to make available the second course, *Isa al-Masih* (“Jesus the Messiah”) which for Muslims will replace *Knowing Jesus*. God is preparing many hearts—the reachable fringe—for His Word. We invite all study helpers to send these special courses to students who identify themselves as Muslims in answer to the Introduction *The Way*. The courses are true to God’s Word, while using an approach that is gentle, non-confrontational and considerate. Most of the Muslim world is reachable. WBS is doing what it can to reach the reachable. Reach out with us.

To order supplies or samples of the new course, phone toll free 877-393-0211 or email Linda at [orders@worldbible-school.net](mailto:orders@worldbible-school.net)



# Joy in Golden Harvests

How are you using, or how will you use, your senior years? Some mistakenly view these years as less productive. Others let God use their time, along with their accumulated prayers and wis-

dom. Sure, the body wears down. But the greater truth is God’s spiritual renewal (2 Corinthians 4:16). Depending more than ever on God, they rejoice in golden harvests! Here are three examples.

## Patsie Eakin

By Deaun Cloe

The Brownfield church began its World Bible School in 1972. Since then its enrollments and baptisms have grown, mainly because of the hard work of Patsie Eakin and her late husband J.E. They have led the program almost from the beginning. Jake Coppinger encouraged them, and from 1983 they visited Ghana on numerous WBS campaigns. They soon developed partnerships with Ghanaian preachers, and had a number visit in their Texas home, including Gabriel Opong and Augustine Tawian, president of Ghana Bible College. Patsy has a great love for the African people,

## Henry Green

Henry Green was the 10th child of 11, born to Joe and Lillian Green, poor sharecroppers. Henry entered IBM as a sales assistant in 1957. From 1972 he and Jean were based at Endicott, NY, and he specialized in banking and office automation. They were true mis-



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## Sybil Lloyd

By Vara Gray

Sybil Lloyd was in her late seventies when her son gave her a computer. She knew little of modern-day technology. What a challenge! She was a quilter, an avid gardener and a WBS teacher. But, having taught herself to play the piano and type, she decided to take a computer course. Her main goal was to learn how to keep records of her 6,000 Nigerian WBS students. Since 1979 she had done everything by hand, but her growing student body required a new solution.

Sybil’s computer instructor was amazed to learn she had only an eighth grade educa-

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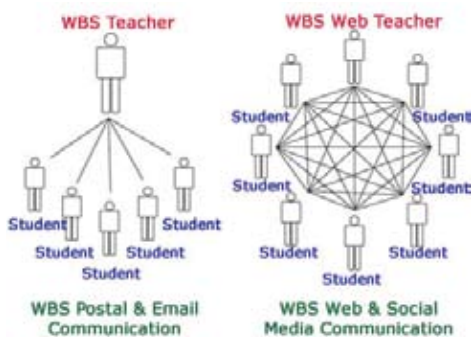
# New Web Evangelism with WBS

By Kit Mullins

On February 15th, 2009, WBS took a big step in reaching today's seekers by launching our entire Master Series curriculum as online courses, again free to all students. Now we are poised to take the next step. WBS is seeking teachers to fill a new role, namely as "web-based study helpers."

Like their postal teacher and email teacher counterparts, web-based study helpers will have a rich and exciting opportunity to spread the Good News to every nation.

Web teaching has this difference: the teacher does not distribute lessons and grade quizzes. Those functions are automated. Rather, a web teacher interacts with students in one of several ways: 1) Simply responding to questions posed by the assigned students. 2) Reviewing answers to discussion questions



and taking opportunities to inquire further or give guidance. 3) The teacher raises new or additional topics based on the Master Series or poses topical questions—either to an entire group or to an individual.

Web based study helpers will pioneer a new frontier for reaching neighbors locally and globally. Each teacher will control his or her

level of personal disclosure, but the opportunity will be there for deeper relationship building. Opportunities will extend even to social media such as Facebook and Twitter. More than four out of five online Americans participate in social media at least once a month, which explains WBS' interest in incorporating social media elements.

Social media are flexible, cost effective and adaptable to cultural needs. They are personal, meet needs for social interaction, and generate trust and community involvement. Social media transform the long-standing model of one teacher-to-many students. Online social networking allows a new, expanded model that can involve the entire group of students assigned to a teacher. No more will it be necessary to say the same things to each student one student at a time. Think of it as sharing your messages with a whole Bible class—and each student being able to participate in the exchanges between you and all other students.

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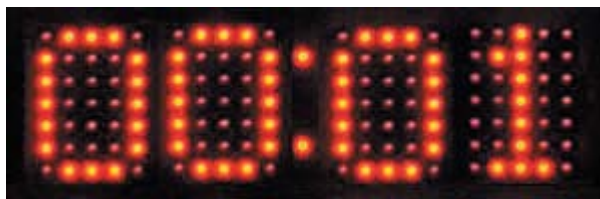
*Above & Beyond*  
by Kevin Rhodes

## Right down to the wire.

Yesterday, I watched the Dallas Cowboys battle the Denver Broncos. The end was pretty exciting. The Broncos won as they kept the Cowboys out of the endzone on fourth down...from the third yard line...with *one second* to play. *Good grief.* (Full disclosure: Yes, I do root for the Cowboys.)

The final ticks of the clock can provide high drama for sports events. The last second...at the bell...down to the wire. Stuff to quicken the pulse—no matter who's playing.

At WBS this time of year, the final countdown, the very last days of December, can be exciting indeed,



even *tense*. You see, history tells us that we receive fully 25% of our annual contributions during the single month of December. *Twenty-five percent.* That means that we literally cannot know how our finances have held up until it's *right down to the wire*. Will we receive the funds we urgently need to cover our expenses for sharing *Jesus* during 2009?

This year, as in every year, we trust God to provide for our needs. The way He typically does that this late in the year is through thoughtful, generous Christians with a love for the lost. As the clock ticks down for 2009, will you please give a gift of support to WBS?

## 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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Student site: [www.wbschool.org](http://www.wbschool.org)

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to  
*Action!* World Bible School

P.O. Box 2169 · Cedar Park, Texas 78630  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Cedar Park, Texas,  
and at additional mailing offices.



# Glad Tidings of Great Joy

## The Value of Teamwork

By Tony Canales

Only a short time ago the WBS effort at the Mayfair church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama, consisted of about six independent study helpers. A cloak closet served as the WBS supplies room. Our teachers, barely aware of each other's WBS efforts, were working from home. What had been a strong operation in the past had atrophied to the point that the teachers were even unaware of the existence of our congregation WBS code (AL-025), much less what it was for.

Then, a few years ago, our shepherds endorsed a simple plan to reorganize the WBS effort into a team concept (adapted from a model at Boulevard congregation in Florence). Some teachers still work predominantly from home, but most gather on Sundays and Wednesdays as a WBS team in classroom 203. At that point, God gave WBS at Mayfair both focus and direction, and our team has been trying to keep up ever since. From a small fragmented postal operation, it now has a postal WBS team and WBS Internet team. When Mayfair mission teams go to English/Spanish speaking nations, we often prepare WBS Intro materials for them to take along and get us connected. We try to augment each of the outreach missions at Mayfair, including the M.O.R.E. mission supporting our military stationed around the globe.

Our team, now numbering over 60 student helpers, has enjoyed the blessings of God in doing the work Jesus left for us to do. We are blessed with a caring congregation with the means to support this major effort and the will to do so. Within this group we are blessed with people of many talents who are eager to do the work. The congregation's leaders and ministers want to hear about WBS and are supportive and encouraging. Our elders have—from the

beginning—been supportive beyond our imagination. They see the Great Commission being fulfilled by the daily involvement of many individual members at Mayfair and know the heartwarming impact a WBS baptism has on our team. It is great!

God has also blessed us with the fine and helpful staff at Cedar Park. Much of what has been accomplished was made easier by their wise council. We work most closely with Linda and Sherri, and I want to thank them for being patient and understanding.

*Editor's Note: I strongly urge you to watch Mayfair's video about WBS. Via Internet, go to <http://www.mayfair.org/other/watch/C61/>. Think about doing something similar for your congregation.*

## A Zambian Champion

By Linda Gregersen

Teacher, evangelist, counselor, church planter, leader—Rodgers Namuswa of Namwianga's Church Development Team is all of these—and more!



Rodgers Namuswa received a motorcycle in 2005 to help him expand outreach efforts. What a worthy investment that turned out to be! Rodgers literally wore out that motorbike spreading the Gospel. He makes regular visits to comfort patients and families at Kalomo Hospital and Namwianga clinic. He goes into the bush to prepare for leadership seminars.

He rides to villages on weekends to teach and preach. He coordinates a Wednesday Bible study. And his World Bible School work has multiplied exponentially in the last four years.

Rodgers has arranged places all over the area that he calls "drop boxes." In these places WBS students can pick up correspondence lessons. The students complete the lessons and then return them to the drop boxes. Rodgers collects these at regular intervals and mails them in bulk to the Brentwood Oaks church of Christ in Austin where member volunteers grade the lessons. The lessons are then boxed and mailed back to Zambia. Rodgers picks them up at the post office and distributes them to the drop boxes.

The relatively quick turn-around time for the lessons has encouraged more students to participate. These students have referred their families and friends, and enrollment numbers keep climbing. Rodgers follows up on those who express an interest in baptism and baptized three WBS students in the month of June.

Rodgers wore out his first motorbike and recently received another. He is sure to log many more miles sharing the Good News in southern Zambia.



### New Web Evangelism from page 3

For 2009, WBS has chosen to focus its attention on web-based Bible courses which integrate three of the leading social media technologies: blogs, Twitter and Facebook.

What if someone wants to be a web teacher but is not interested in using the social media tools? As always, WBS gives teachers considerable flexibility in correspondence mission work. Just as teachers may choose to work with students by postal, email, or web, the web study helpers will be able to choose to use the tools that fit their style of teaching. Students in the U.S. and around the world are using social media. We have witnessed this phenomenon as we watched the WBS Facebook Group (<http://facebook.com/worldbibleschool>) grow from 220 members to over 5,000 in 60 days!





## Course Prices Increase

Beginning August, 2009, WBS had to increase course prices.

- The Introduction Lesson (*The Way*) went from 15 cents to 20 cents.
- Regular courses (*God Has Spoken* and similar size courses) went from 45 cents to 50 cents.
- Advanced courses (*Family of God* and *Live a Life of Love*) went from 60 cents to 65 cents.

The last price increase took place in June 2003, that is, over six years ago. Please think about the price increases of paper and gasoline during any single year within that period. Such price increases figure into the price of anything WBS prints. Yet, for an amazing six years, we have avoided passing

on such steady increases.

Before that, 1994 saw the previous price increase after a nine year period without change. That long period experienced inflation, but we passed none of it on to teachers. Before that, in July 1986, the price was adjusted *down*. Prior to 1986, the price for an Introduction Lesson was 21 cents, and a typical course was 53 cents. In 1986 WBS cut those prices down to 13 cents and 40 cents respectively. In other words, *we are only now, after 23 years, getting close to 1985 prices.*

Why are we only now approaching 1985 prices? Our aim has been, *and still is*, to make courses as affordable as possible to encourage the teaching of millions more.

That is why cuts took place, and why subsequent increases have been so rare and so modest. Knowing WBS, you can be assured of this: The 2009 increase is purely a matter of necessity. WBS simply cannot absorb all the inflationary effects indefinitely. According to the official calculator, inflation has exactly doubled since 1985: what cost \$1 then costs \$2 today. Had we kept up with inflation, each course would cost \$1.06 now. However, we have purposefully shielded our teachers from that impact. Thank you for understanding this situation and its history, and for shouldering your part in local and world evangelism. For WBS orders phone 877-393-0211, or email [orders@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:orders@worldbibleschool.net).



### Patsie Eakin from page 2

and is a great coordinator for our local program.

Patsie, mother of three, grandmother of seven, and great-grandmother of six, is the author and widely-demanded trainer of "God Said" Bible class materials for toddlers. She also had her own fashion and clothing business called "Mom and Me." I have known Patsie nearly all my life, and love her for the very dedicated worker she is. I have had the privilege of teaching with her for over 30 years. She has been a wonderful example and friend, and is much loved.



### Henry Green from page 2

sionaries, fully engaged for 33 years in teaching, visiting and strengthening the churches. With retirement in 1990, they faced a decision about how to spend the future.

Henry asked WBS leader Tex Williams how to help. It was determined that the greatest need was for new students. With this assignment, Henry launched into publishing ads in a systematic way. At first most ads were placed

in Africa where information about newspapers and rates was scarce. With hard work and persistence, Henry gradually built a reliable data base for papers in Africa and much of the world. Every ad carried a code so that Henry could track monthly responses and cost-effectiveness. His coding system continues today.

Henry recalls, "Experiences in all parts of the world were interesting. From one ad about the size of a U.S. postage stamp run in an Islamic country, we obtained about 1,200 names. We were not allowed to run it again. Ads that continued in Indonesia, however, produced many thousands of students for our WBS teachers."

Henry initiated translation of WBS courses into the Indonesian language. The translator was a Christian, Alip Djoehaeri. Austin member Charlotte Wright (who also prepares *Action!*) did the publishing layout. These courses are still in use, notably with Daniel Setiabuti's radio broadcasts.

For many years, Henry put in three days a week at WBS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He also served on a local missions committee, made some 17 mission trips, and encouraged many others to do likewise.

*Editor's Note: We in Cedar Park recently celebrated with Henry his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We*

*salute a great volunteer who set the pace for systematic, effective advertising, leading many hundreds of thousands to the Gospel. The examples of his brothers Ernest in Memphis and Clois in Rockdale remain equally inspiring.*



### Sybil Lloyd from page 2



tion and encouraged her to take the GED. She readily passed the pre-test but insisted on studying the 776-page prep book and passed the GED with a perfect math score at age 78. What an accomplishment for a godly lady determined to be fruitful in God's kingdom!

Due to diminishing vision, Sybil has reluctantly retired from WBS after enrolling 7,800 students. She continues to receive many letters of gratitude, which proves her powerful influence through simple personal notes and Bible lessons for struggling people. At 90 years young, Sybil is active in the Georgetown church of Christ and lives close to her son and his family.





# Honor/Memorial Contributors List

## In Honor of...

### Anniversary

**Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bearden's 75<sup>th</sup>**  
Paul & Lucille McClung  
**Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Counts 50<sup>th</sup>**  
Virgil & Mertice Miles  
**Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Fletcher's 50<sup>th</sup>**  
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**Mr. & Mrs. Ray Partin**  
Daniel & Twyla Fuertes  
**Jeff & Dianna Roberts**  
George Douglas Roberts  
**Ray & Kathleen Withers' 65<sup>th</sup>**  
Ron & Susan Pottberg

### Birthday

**Tim & Kim Bannister**  
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Bill & Mickie Kennedy  
**Brenda Carmody's 60<sup>th</sup>**  
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**Billy C. Kennedy**  
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**Alex Langhoff's 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Hurston E. Prescott  
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**Tex Williams' 81<sup>st</sup>**  
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### Christian Service

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**Alexander Bannister's baptism**  
Lydia M. Guillot  
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**Maurice & Mary Nell Kemper's devotion to the cause of Christ**  
Herman & Jeri Barnett  
**Daisy Knickerbocker's devotion to WBS**  
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### Family

**Helene & Will Trudell, my grandchildren**  
Lou Thomas  
**Bryce William Thompson, new grandson**  
Ron & Susan Pottberg

### Friendship

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**Audrey Tyler**  
Joseph Clay  
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### Other

**Jack & Evelyn White-Mother's & Father's Day**  
Paul & Janet Morrow  
**Our Lord**  
Mrs. Roy V. Palmer  
**Love for WBS**  
Dosia Jackson

### In Memory of...

**Lance Corporal Nickalous N. Aldrich**  
MSGT Roy F. Woods  
**Lloyd Alexander**  
June Sampson  
**Marsha Alexander**  
Elvie Coffman  
**Jimmy Antwine**  
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