

Action!



Teaching the Word.
Reaching the World!

Volume 74, Number 3

May 2010



John Reese

The story is told of villagers who had become Christians. When they learned about the grace of giving, they drew a circle in the sand. Each villager placed a gift into the circle, which began to fill with local products from eggs and corn to chickens and pigs. Finally it was the turn of the poorest man, a cripple with only unfit rags. He dragged himself forward. Upon reaching the circle, he rolled his body into it. The villagers were shocked. Then they all understood and cheered: his gift was himself!

God forms you all into a powerful team to impact the nation and the globe.

He shared the spirit of the Macedonians who “gave themselves first to the Lord” (2 Corinthians 8:5). The same spirit helps to explain the phenomenon called World Bible School. Flavil Yeakley, a leading statistician, recently said,

“We are making more converts worldwide through World Bible School than all other methods put together. That’s not the only thing, but that’s the point of contact, and that is crucial.”

There really is nothing quite like WBS. What is the key to such out-

standing progress? In one letter, the answer is God working through “U.” Even if you feel like the least, **you** still offer yourselves. **You** are the teachers. **You** are the donors who supply them. **You** are the leaders who encourage both. **You** are the advertisers and recruiters. **You** labor in follow up. **You** are responsive students who give yourselves to Christ in turn. God forms you all—givers, reachers, teachers, leaders, seekers, reapers—into a powerful team to impact the nation and the globe. This issue celebrates many facets of the fact that WBS is... **YOU!**



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Retiree
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WBS is...

Providential “Coincidence”

By Robin Cannon

There are nearly 10,000 World Bible School teachers. In the nature of worldwide correspondence, it can be a surprise for teachers to meet someone they brought to Christ. But it happens. Last December, during a benefit dinner at the Goodman Oaks church of Christ in Southaven, Miss., there was such an encounter, by the grace of God. Rhinard Troup, former missionary to Zimbabwe and WBS Coordinator at the Great Oaks church of Church in Memphis, Ten., attended the dinner. This is where coincidence defies chance, and God’s encouraging hand becomes evident. Rhinard himself tells it best:

“Our son told us of a young man in jail. We sent a WBS Introduction—our first in what has become an extensive jail/prison ministry to hundreds primarily throughout Mississippi.




Troup and Lester

All growth has come from referrals. This first contact gave us about five to six referrals... [While this first contact] was studying WBS lessons in his cell, another prisoner, Charles Lester, walked by, saw him studying and asked ‘Do you think I could get that, too?’”

Charles himself tells of this experience with great enthusiasm. Under Rhinard’s guidance Charles completed the Master Series. But he was transferred to another correctional facil-

ity in Greenwood, Miss., and lost contact with Rhinard. At that facility he found that weekly services and studies were being held by Tom Ainsworth and David Franklin of West President church of Christ. The seed of God’s Word had been planted in his heart, and, before his release, Charles was baptized in a horse trough to begin a new life.

As Rhinard relates, “Then came the WBS dinner at Southaven. Charles overheard my name and introduced himself. He is now a Christian, worshiping at Goodman Oaks and helping with their WBS program. With the help of the Lord, Charles is re-making his life...”

Charles is confident that God is keeping His promise of abundant life. He is well on his way to reinventing his life as a son of the Most High. We praise God for the way He works, and for His living, healing Word. 

WBS is...

a Fulfilled Retiree



By Jesse Mullins, Jr.

Gary Melton is a long-time believer who has found, in his retirement years, just the right outlet for his lifelong desire to spread the message of God’s love.

Now retired to Branson, Mo., Melton, 62, worked in the retail trade and was active with his local church as a student of the Word, a song leader, a teacher and occasionally a preacher. But as for bringing non-Christians to Christ, he never felt he was able to make the right connections.

“I had been frustrated a long time by not being able to reach out to people,” he said.

Perhaps it was the people themselves. They felt they had their own brand of truth and didn’t seem interested in hearing anything else.

His use of World Bible School came about “by accident,” he said. Inspired by an article in J.C. Choate’s *Voice of Truth International*, he used the Internet to look up a specific ministry. He found WBS instead. That reminded

him of his younger years in Minot, N.D., when Dave Chamberlain had encouraged studies through WBS.

Gary said, “I appreciated the lessons because they truly were scriptural. I loved whoever wrote those lessons. They were very talented teachers.”

Recalling these fond memories, Melton decided that this was indeed the route for him. He became a WBS Internet teacher. One student was Nevis Ligo, a native of India who came to America with her husband.


“She definitely has a good heart,” Melton said of Nevis. “She is a seeker of the truth and whenever we started the lessons I could tell she was unusual for the respect she showed for it, and for the way she would do her lessons so quickly. She was just hungry for the Word.” He added, with a laugh, “It was difficult to keep up with her, actually.”

“But it was rewarding, too,” he said. “And when she finally got to the point where she said she wanted to be baptized, I was overjoyed and still am.” Nevis (48), in Dayton, N.J., taught

her mother, who was baptized prior to her recent passing.

Gary has 91 students on his roll, of whom 58 have active status. He is excited that another of his students, a man in Saudi Arabia, is striving to start a congregation in his city there.

T.J. Finley, an elder at the Branson church of Christ, called Gary someone who “is as faithful as the day is long.... He’s a live wire and he benefits us a lot here.”

Melton concluded, “I believe the doors are wide open. I am so excited about this opportunity to be a part of it. It’s not necessary that I get any credit myself. My reward comes from the Lord. I am just seeking to glorify Him.” 



Melton and grandson



WBS is...

Caring Youth

By Carly Cannon

I had been home schooling for a couple of months when my Dad came into my room and asked if he could use my computer. He pulled up this screen on the Internet and said, "Check this out and sign up." Dad had been working at WBS for well over a year, and he had always urged me to become a teacher. It was one of those things that I thought would take too much time or would be too boring, and I, quite frankly, didn't want to do it. But I signed up to be a

teacher and within a couple of weeks I was emailed a list of people who wanted to be taught the Word of God.

From that point on, I have corresponded with people from all over the world—France, Australia, Pakistan, Nigeria and even America. I formed bonds with these people. Some of the relationships have grown into true and trusting friendships. One woman in particular stands out in my mind. She signed on to WBS as a refresher course in order to reawaken her desire for God's love. She always asks questions, always wants more to



Carly Cannon, teaching her email students

study and is always willing to learn. Being able to assist her in her journey back to God reminds me of why I became a Christian. It means that I can do something to help someone study and understand the Gospel.

Now, I am even being asked to do presentations for church youth groups to show them how they can make a difference in the lives of people all over the world.

I'm a teenager (16), and that's hard. I'm also a Christian, and that's harder. But when I get an email from a student requesting a baptism, or (amazingly) when I have a student ask me if they could pray for *me*, I know it is all worth it.



WBS is...

Giant Shoulders

By John Reese

In about 1675, Sir Isaac Newton responded to a compliment from an older physicist in this way: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." Some of our Giants recently departed for their eternal reward. Their passing reminds us how much World Bible School owes to them and earlier pioneers. Limited space means that these few examples must represent others of equal dedication and importance.



Pattersons and Farrars

In 1964 **Henry Farrar** became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He and Grace left a life of guaranteed wealth to serve the poorest of China and Africa. He established the Nigerian Christian Hospital. While Dr. Farrar wielded a scalpel in surgery, WBS was a favorite tool in evangelism. At the latest Medical Missions Seminar, he grabbed my arm excitedly, and said, "Have you seen what Monday John Akpakpan is doing?" Monday John, one of his earliest and dearest mentees, leads a WBS team that

has recorded over 25,000 baptisms.

Another physician, **Noel Ellis** became a medical and spiritual institution in Lubbock, Tex. He served for 32 years as an elder at Broadway and served on WBS' Board. WBS helped fulfill his dream of impacting as many as possible with the Gospel. His goal—with his wife Gladys, their friends Leonard and Josephine Francis, and their team—was to teach over 1,000,000. They may have reached it by the time he passed away March 2010.

Gertrude Mae (Otis) Oglesby taught school at Borger, Tex. for 27 years. Her obituary says, "After [her husband] Chester's death, she returned to Brownwood.... She was an avid participant in the 'World Bible School' program. She and her sister Virginia have over 32,000 students and financially supported many missionaries in Africa. Because of her dedication and support, many lives have been changed and many souls know and belong to the Lord.... She is at home with her Master and hearing what she wanted most, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"



Gladys and Noel Ellis

Action!

EDITOR John Reese

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Notes from

WBS is...

Relationships

By Doris Coomey

More than 40 years ago, I moved from West Virginia to Syracuse, NY. I was young and afraid of being away from home, and of being in a large church family. They got me involved in World Bible School. My first student was a young man with cerebral palsy in a group home.

He soon wanted to come to church. We went and brought him to our home and church. Forty years later, he is in a nursing home and still comes to church. To anyone who stops to speak with him, he says, "Has anyone told you, I love you?"



WBS is...

International Teamwork

By Chester Woodhall

"I came to Christ as a result of WBS and I was baptized at Buffalo Flats," explains David, a young Xhosa family man.

We have about 650 WBS students in the Eastern Cape (of South Africa) and about half are in prison. The WBS team in the church



Chester Woodhall

at Clyde in Texas does a very effective job of organizing and grading the students' courses. We organize the follow up for those who want to be baptized through our congregations in the Eastern Cape. The new church plant at Bisho is a direct result of WBS contact and follow up. We have an excellent partnership with Clyde.



Editor's Note: *Chester's wife Angela has been elected to Eastern Cape Legislature. As one voter said, "We respect Angela because she is a committed Christian and seeks to apply Christian principles in the political arena."*



WBS is...

Dedicated Follow Up

By Chuck Cromwell

Responding to a WBS follow up request, Conrad Tsiga and his co-workers traveled 186 miles to Nemanwa School, Zimbabwe. They requested the headmaster to announcement their arrival to assist any of the pupils who were WBS students. The headmaster replied, "Why don't you address our school assembly, and tell your own story?"



Conrad and Helen Tsiga

After preaching to all 300 pupils, the visitors were kept busy with many new enrollments. But one student, Japhert Mukwaturi, grasped Conrad's coattails and said, "I am not going to let you leave here until you baptize me." After more studies, Japhert was baptized.

He told Conrad, "We must have a congregation meeting here; there is no congregation within 60 miles." They showed Japhert how to start a congregation. Before long he had baptized 27 others and the church was growing.



WBS is...

Suffering Servants

By Jerry Starling

My mother Ruth Starling (90) of Plymouth, Fla., has a student in India named Lukas Dongardive. He has translated the WBS courses into the Marathi language. Here is a summary of a letter he wrote to Ruth (the wording is his):

"We are traveling every day for teach ignorant people on surrounding our area. I and my wife Rajeshree went to proclaim the Gospel to a town. About 50 people gathered on that meeting. The road is so bad condition many ditches on the road, so I was safely ride our motorbike on the road because of my wife was expecting a baby and she was four months pregnant. Suddenly one truck (lorry) came from our back sight and dashes our motorbike, we both fell down on the road. The doctors told me: your injury is not cure before 15 days and you wife's fetus is miscarriage. We prayed to God for our present and future. We believe God not leave us alone in sorrow, He with us and He have good plan for us at earth and in heaven."

"In every year this month Hindu people sacrifices a goat for theirs remission sins. Thousands goats cut every year in Maharashtra State. We and Church members (who learnt from WBS course) are always teaching them that 'It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins' (Heb 10:4). 'We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all' (Heb 10:10). This time the five people accept the Christ by baptism."



WBS is...

Creative Campaigners

By Paula Leverett

The Lord was so gracious in my trip to Zambia even though I am struggling with my back. Cleddy Varner had asked Leonard Mujala to arrange with the Headmaster for us to share WBS with the students. The Lord went before





Lynn and Paula

us and opened the doors to three high schools and three middle schools. Two of them arranged for us to meet with all the teachers and share

WBS with them. Leonard is such a great servant of the Lord and many doors were opened because of the Christ-like life he lives.



Zambian Teachers with Mujala (r)

Mutanda is a private high school. We were treated with great hospitality and met with the teachers on Monday, and they arranged for us to come back and meet with all the high schoolers under the trees. Cindy Roberson went with Leonard and me on this day to help give out WBS lessons. It was a great day.

Schools are open all over Zambia and I am praying that other WBS teachers will plan a trip and go into these schools, for the fields are white unto harvest. We also made WBS boxes to place in the schools for the students to place their completed lessons. Leonard is going to pick them up and mail them to me for the first time to see what it will cost. Pray for us as we may receive hundreds at a time. I have already been asking the Lord of Harvest to send forth the reapers.



Paula Leverett at a Zambian school

WBS is...

Something To Do

By Mary Shur

World Bible School began at Woodsfield church in Ohio in 1979 with Ed Wis-sell. Harold Matthews spoke to the congregation about WBS, and motivated Louise Smith to start. That same year, when Louise's husband, Brady, spent a while in hospital, Louise brought him 100 Introductory Lessons to place in envelopes and address. Louise said, "This will give you something to do." He has been doing that "something" for 30 years!



Brady Smith, Rick Shur, Louise Smith

At first Brady and Louise covered all expenses. Later, the elders made WBS an evangelistic program and appointed Brady as deacon in charge of WBS. Since then 125 different teachers have worked with the Smiths. They have recorded 3,911 baptisms—enough to fill the Woodsfield building seven times with 400 standing outside. The Woodsfield WBS team has taught students in 184 nations.

Woodsfield teachers have sent out 85,000 pieces of mail. Louise, herself, has sent 35,128 Introductory Lessons. Brady noted that a typical day for him begins at 3:00 am and concludes at 6:00 pm. A bedroom in their home was converted into a WBS office, and reflects 30 years of loving labor. The Smiths remain very active in corresponding around the world, but are concerned with who will take their place.



WBS Is... Giant Shoulders from page 3

Jackson Bradley competed in 25 major PGA golf championships with the likes of Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson and Arnold Palmer. He trained many rising stars. But his mission



Jackson and daughter Tina

was sharing the grace he discovered in Jesus. He started Freedom Church, a half-way house ministry that reaches thousands. For Jackson's 85th birthday, his daughters organized a golf tournament to benefit WBS and First Tee for disadvantaged youth. His beloved wife Dot serves as bookkeeper for WBS.

Sue (Looney) Chandler of Farmersville, Tex., left for Home in March 2010. Born in 1931, she is survived by her husband of 59 years, Charles S. Chandler. Their entire lives have been devoted to missions on five continents, including WBS' God Bless Africa campaigns. Their specialty was training for effective evangelism.



Morris and Pam Weller

He served as a deacon and mission chairman at Skillman, and an elder at Ennis. He and Pam were partners with WBS and with many missionaries, including Beth and me. His obituary, like others, included donations to WBS as a way to honor and to memorialize.



Kay and Jim Petty

Other examples could include Jim Bill McInteer, Bill Breitschopf, Jo Ann Walker, Jim Petty and more. If we see further, it is because we stand on the shoulders of Giants like these.

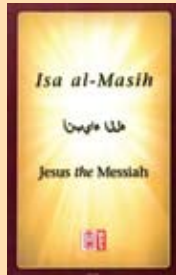


Tips for Teachers!

Two New Courses Released

World Bible School is pleased to announce the availability of two new courses: the 2nd course to Muslims and the 6th course in the French Master Series.

Isa Al-Masih, meaning "Jesus the Messiah," is the sequel to *The Prophets of God* which was published last year. At present, both are only available in English. Teachers who know they are corresponding with Muslims can substitute *The Prophets of God* for the usual Master Series course *God Has Spoken*. Likewise, they can substitute *Isa* for the Master Series course *Knowing Jesus*. Master courses have been useful with Muslims but, having been written for general audiences worldwide, they could not focus on the special needs of Muslims. *The Prophets* and *Isa* remedy this. They take a bridging approach that moves forward from familiar biblical facts. For example, many Muslims esteem the prophets of the Old Testament and call Jesus *Isa Al-Masih*, Arabic for "Jesus the Messiah." These courses start there, with what Islam already claims to believe. The courses make careful and considerate progress by reminding students that only the Bible gives sufficient detail about the prophets and Jesus. Where unfamiliar details may become uncomfortable, students are reminded that God, who cannot lie, protects and preserves His word—which itself is a major tenet of Islam. Whether or not you currently have Muslim students, these courses are well



Frederic Feruzi and Barry Baggott are among those behind our WBS lessons in French

worth ordering as a guide for how to converse with or about Muslims.

The 6th course in the French Master Series, *La Famille de Dieu* (Family of God), has now been printed and can be ordered. WBS deeply appreciates the donor for this printing, and the faith-filled labors of Doyle Kee, Barry Baggott, Frederic Feruzi and their co-workers who persisted to complete this project. This course is based on Ephesians' theme of one church. For pricing and orders, call WBS toll free at 877-393-0211, or e-mail orders@worldbibleschool.net. For French literature and courses, including *Famille*, contact French World Outreach at 615-781-2137, or by email at two.ceb@gmail.com or through the web site: www.frenchworldoutreach.org.



Editor's note: *Barry Baggott was a WBS teacher as a teenager. He and Rachel were missionaries for 16 years in Ivory Coast, West Africa and pioneer other regions. Barry now leads the comprehensive French literature work Editions Centre d'Enseignement Biblique (CEB) based at Crieve Hall in Nashville, Tenn., continuing much of the work established by Jerrell Rowden. Frederic Feruzi Katakwe from the Congo and Canada is integral to CEB in Nashville.*



Warning to WBS teachers

There has been an upswing in scams lately, particular from Box 2094, Ibadan in Nigeria.

Mary Nell Kemper in our office keeps detailed files on all known scams.

Look for these clues:

- 1) A known address of a scammer
- 2) Many different addresses in the same handwriting
- 3) Insistent requests for Bibles, money, gifts, etc.

If you need to discuss this with Mary Nell, please call her at 512-345-8190.



Camp Opportunities

Do you want your teens to connect with the world WBS students live in? Harding University's HUT training village hosts church youth groups on weekends for a practical experience with the developing world. HUT combines simulations with guidance from experienced missionaries and Harding students. For more information, contact Oneal Tankersley at otankersley@harding.edu.

Would you like to live like an apostle at the Spiritual Boot Camp? Discover aspects of culture, language and emotions never learned by books, in the interest of understanding God and your WBS students better. Contact Johnny Stovall at oooc@yahoo.com.

Editor's note: *Oneal was a WBS teacher as a teen, a factor in his life-long devotion to Kenya and world missions. Johnny, as a missionary in Indonesia, worked with 20,000 WBS students. His proposed camp, 50 miles north of Abilene, Tex., is a new experiment.*



Memorials from page 7

June Sanders (2)

Benny Sanders

Kathryn A. Schleyer

Charles D. Hudson

Don Sebree

David & Cheri Rix

Aaron Shafer

John & Beth Reese

Edwin D. Smith

Etta Smith

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J.F. Vanderford

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JoAnn Walker

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Mike Walle

Lori A. Walle

Joyce Ware

Buddy & Latrelle Kirk

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H. Morris Weller

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Zac Steele

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