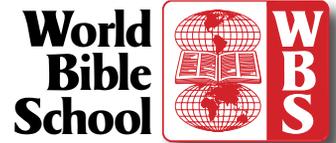


# Action!



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

Volume 77, Number 2

March 2013

# CHANGE

...a child

...us



By John Reese

As I write, we at World Bible School have just concluded six days of prayer and planning framed by the 2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan. Ron Pottberg from Colorado, Rick Shur from Kentucky, Pat Brown from Oklahoma and Jonathan Towell from Lubbock flew in to meet with those of us who office at Cedar Park in Texas. We remind ourselves to be open to change by God. He is perfect; we are not. His plan is perfect; ours is not. He is the Potter; we are the clay. We want to remain moldable and yielding to His touch.

The first order of change is “repentance”—the life-changing decision  
*continued on page 7*

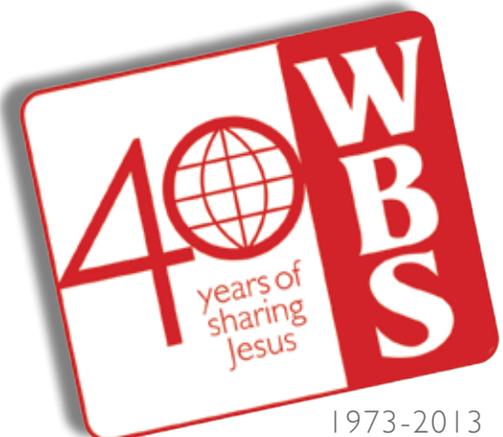
By Ken and Judy Kendall-Ball  
with Sandra Smith

South Africa has a history of seismic changes from the age of migrations to the colonial era, then from the apartheid era to the present. In the process, many South Africans have learned the importance of character and values. The Department of Education’s *Revised National Curriculum Statement* (RNCS) describes teachers in a number of roles, including “pastors.” As a major learning

category, “Life Orientation” includes “values and attitudes” that equip “learners for meaningful and successful living in a rapidly changing and transforming society.”

Educators at the North Main church of Christ in Weatherford, TX, have developed *Lessons to Live By* (LTLB) that harmonize well with South Africa’s RNCS. The materials, taught by public grade school teachers, develop character and morals based on the timeless principles of the

*continued on page 6*



1973-2013

# A Voice Crying Out in the Savannah

By Larenda Roberts

**H**ave you ever wished that a godly man would go into high schools and convince this generation that God has given commands in His Word to live pure lives leading up to the vows of marriage? Would you dare hope he tells them that society has rejected the laws of God, and the results are millions of abortions, unwanted children, abandoned street kids and disease epidemics? Could he convince them to repent and return their lives to God's laws?



**Greg Clodfelter**

Greg Clodfelter, a missionary and minister at Queen's View church of Christ in Nyeri, Kenya, is doing just that through the "Right Choices" ministry. He and his mission team of four have presented to more than 40,000 public and private high school students in Kenya, Africa, since fall 2008.

"Choose *today* whom you will serve!" Greg's voice booms out in large dining halls where 400 to 1,000 students pay rapt attention during the seminars. "As for me

and my house, we're going to serve the LORD!" he shouts. The boys and girls erupt in spontaneous applause.

While microphones are rare in Kenyan schools, the RC team transports its own hi-tech sound system. Greg's lively three-hour lesson covers

dating relationships, sex before marriage and the marriage covenant. He admonishes boys in the audience in particular.

"The Bible says if I am a righteous man my children will be blessed (Proverbs 20:7). *A real man marries his woman.*" Blessings in marriage include a genealogy, respect in the community and improved life opportunities (statistically known).

Speaking in English interspersed with familiar Swahili phrases, Greg talks frankly about the consequences of sexual promiscuity. He moves students to laughter



**Sonia and Greg Clodfelter present Right Choices**

at his candid nature, weeping over lost virginity, and clapping with joy knowing they can vow future purity.

In 2012 Greg and his Right Choices team began enrolling hundreds of these students in World Bible School (WBS) lessons. "I hope there are enough Christians (WBS graders) in America to handle the workload that could come out of this open door," Greg says. With the help of WBS graders, the Right Choices Ministry is committed to teaching the Word and reaching the world!



# Hardened Criminals Confess

By David F. Tonui, Principal of the Nairobi Great Commission School

**M**id-2012 marked a turning point in our evangelism explosion involving Nairobi Great Commission School. It was on this day that 38 souls were brought to Christ through baptism. All of them are inmates at Kericho Main Prison, about four hours drive from Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Set among beautiful tea estates, this area has over 400 congregations of Christ.

Isamel Sang preaches at Kericho Town church of Christ and Eric Chepkwony focuses on World Bible School follow-up. They finally gained permission to share the Gospel using WBS materials at the Prison. From the outset it was evident



**Ishmael baptizes an inmate**

that the inmates were thirsty for the Word. The Springtown church of Christ in Texas provided Bibles and a baptistry (see photo).

Kericho Prison was established in 1945 and has never given an opportunity for the baptism of prisoners. The prison's chaplain, Ole Sagana, worked tirelessly to organize this opportunity. Among

those baptized were hardcore criminals sentenced for murder and other heinous crimes. After baptism, a number of them took the podium to confess their evil activities. Some of them had served outside the country of Kenya with anti-government militia groups. Each of them is remorseful and accepts that they are in prison for the wrong that they did.

Local media stations covered the event. That evening we received calls of appreciation and best wishes. Now the administrator at another larger facility in Nakuru wants the Gospel brought there.

We thank God for His wonderful way of working through His servants. I also thank everyone involved directly or indirectly with the work at Nairobi Great Commission School, WBS and the church in Kericho town. Each of you has touched many more lives than you know.





## Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

# Jesus talks a lot about money.

**D**o you realize just how much Jesus teaches about money? He talks about *giving*, too. Open your Bible to Matthew chapter six. In the “Sermon on

Makes sense, doesn't it? Our hearts follow our treasures, our money. If we invest our money in the service of the Lord, our hearts will grow in the service of the Lord, too!”

## ...where your treasure is...

the Mount”, Jesus shares divine financial advice in rapid fire:

*Let your giving be done in secret.*

*You cannot serve both God and money.*

*Don't worry about your life.*

*Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth.*

Our World Bible School colleague, Rick Shur, likes to consider how that last quote continues:

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Rick likes to remind people of the significance of that phrase. And today, I was a captive audience.

“Look at it, Kevin,” he told me excitedly. “Jesus mentions ‘treasure’ before ‘heart’.

Rick went on to share why he is so passionate about raising funds for WBS. He truly believes that by doing so, in some small way, he is helping to affect the hearts of donors. He says, “A donor's heart is following his treasure—straight to the heart of God!” Pondering Jesus' words (and Rick's commentary), I know that it's true.

If you give generously to WBS and other good works, you probably have experienced the principle at work in your life. If not, test it for yourself. Give to a worthy cause (like WBS). Trust the words of Jesus. God can lead your heart by your generosity.



## Got Appreciated Stocks?

**A**s the overall economy lumbers along, the stock market is bumping around all-time highs as of this writing. That makes it a good time to consider donating appreciated stocks to WBS. Not only can you take an immediate tax deduction on the gifted stocks' value, but you can also avoid paying capital gains tax (newly increased on high earners) on the amount. Contact Kevin Rhodes at [kevin@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:kevin@worldbibleschool.net).



## Action!

Editor: John Reese

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16110 Anderson Mill Road · Cedar Park, Texas 78613

512-345-8190 · 800-311-2006 · fax 512-401-8265

Lessons: 877-393-0211 · [info@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:info@worldbibleschool.net)

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Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts are ideal ways to pay tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to "teach the Word and reach the world" with WBS.

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## New Adventure for Kaylynn Myers

For the past four years, Kaylynn Myers has been an invaluable coworker at WBS. Kaylynn has helped thousands of students and teachers use our Internet tools by giving excellent support. Kaylynn has also written articles, managed our database, tested our sites and has been the go-to person for all of those miscellaneous difficult jobs that keep the Internet program running.

Now Kaylynn and her husband Travis are starting a new adventure in Kunming, capital of China's Yunnan province. Their mission includes the teaching of English.

Their next several months will be spent fundraising and working with supporters. Kaylynn will be missed by WBS and the many teachers who got to know her along the way. Please join us in praying for safety and success for Kaylynn and Travis in China.



Travis and Kaylynn Myers

## Still Fantastic!

By Marquisette Bickford

Ward and Phyllis Bickford have long served the Cedarloo congregation in Cedar Falls, IA. Thirty years ago the Bickfords started a very fruitful outreach for Cedarloo, namely World Bible School. Greg Chisum had just returned from a mission trip to Ghana. He had seen WBS results, and he was very excited. Greg's wife Karen came over to the Bickford's house and explained to Phyllis how to begin a WBS program. She paused to ask Phyllis what she thought. Phyllis replied, "Fantastic!" That was the beginning in the fall of 1982, and she is still teaching! Her husband is a great spiritual leader, and both of them built a dynamic program with many others involved.

Phyllis always had a desire to do mission work. WBS fulfilled those dreams even though family circumstances—including severe accidents—discouraged global travel. Thousands of Bickford lessons flew to Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Malawi and beyond. Their follow up partners include Sylvester Imogoh. When the children were young and the family used to go to Minnesota for vacations, Ward took fishing rods and Phyllis took boxes of WBS correspondence—that was her recreation!

*Editor's note: Long before my part in honoring the Bickfords at Cedarloo, their names were well known to us personally. For many years we Reeses conducted "God Bless Africa" (GBA) campaigns in Zimbabwe. The Bickfords diligently responded to Action notices and invited their students to meet us at GBA seminars. As we registered students and recorded their WBS teachers' names, the Bickford name kept appearing. Then, as we reported baptisms, many of those reports went to the Bickfords. You can do the same right now. Use the Zimbabwe notice on page 6 to invite your Zimbabwean students to meet us in June. Finally, we are grateful to Cedarloo shepherds Glen Davis, David Ingle, Keith Kearns, Jay Keller and Carl Reninger for inviting us to honor the Bickfords. If you have similar WBS champions who should be honored, please let us know.*



John presents award to Ward and Phyllis

## What Will You Do With Jesus?



Redacted from Jimmie Lovell in Action, October 1970

### A Personal Letter to My Action Family and the Church of the Living God:

Beloved, since this issue will be going into over 1,000 new Christian homes, I feel that I need to inform you of our objectives. Pilate said in the long ago, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called the Christ? They all say unto him, Let Him be crucified" (Matt. 27:22).

What will you do with Jesus whom you believe to be the Christ? What shall I do with Him?

So far as I know, there is no modification in our teaching and belief that one must be taught and baptized if he would be saved—Jesus Christ commands it. But in the same breath and same command, He tells us to go into all the world and give all humanity a chance to learn of Him—to be born again. I just happen to believe both ends of this commandment as equally binding. Because I believe it, I preach it.

I can remember when we had just one missionary across the seas. Today, we have over 400 families but these cannot preach to all the millions. Bible correspondence lessons [are] the most valuable tool for the missionary except the Bible. Untold thousands of students in many nations have been enrolled and thousands have been converted. We feel happy that we have had a part.

For 61 years I've been a Christian—have done a little preaching and a great deal of teaching. Never in all these years have I accepted one cent for any service ever rendered the church—didn't have to. For 34 years Vivian and I have published a little paper as this one [Action]. None of this work was ever forced upon me—nothing is yet. That big eternal question having to do with my soul has always been before me, "What shall I do with Jesus—preach Him in all the world or crucify Him?" Preach Him, and where you cannot do this, send Him (the Bible) and let Him tell His own story. No, I'll not crucify Him, but instead, do my best to get Him and His holy Word to all humanity. To this end I have dedicated my life, my soul and my all. I will give the last drop of my blood in getting the Bible message—JESUS HIMSELF—to every human being now on this earth!





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## WBS em Português

By Jonathan Towell

In late November we launched [www.escolabiblicamundial.org](http://www.escolabiblicamundial.org). This site is a WBS teaching site completely in Portuguese. In only a few months, the site has registered *thousands* of Portuguese speaking students on only a *few dollars per day* of advertising.

The site is simple. Teaching with WBS on the web, regardless of language, takes very little time. If you can send an email, you can teach with WBS on the Web.

We are eagerly seeking Portuguese-speaking Christians to help us teach. We have students from every other Portuguese-speaking nation, most notably Brazil, Mozambique and Angola. Tell others who can help. Become a teacher in Portuguese by signing up at [www.escolabiblicamundial.net](http://www.escolabiblicamundial.net).



## How I've Changed

By Bill Colwell



My one-year anniversary at World Bible School is approaching. This past year has presented some huge challenges, many wonderful surprises and a few disappointments. It has reminded me of simple truths that deserve closer attention. In that sense the last year has changed me... hopefully, for the better.

Things I've relearned:

- The world is incredibly large and home to vast, ever-increasing numbers—about seven billion people in 255 nations and colonies. Before, I knew the world was big. Now, seeing the 10' X 13' world map in WBS' conference room, I realize how small my corner of the world is, and how very many people struggle to find meaning in their lives.
- Christians need to introduce people to Jesus. The sad fact is our world is lost in sin. As a friend says, "What wraps around the world seven times and grows longer every day? The line of people who need to know Jesus." The beautiful truth is that God sent his Son to change that. Christians have ability and responsibility to make an incredible difference in people's lives.
- Teaching with WBS is a wonderful way for Christians to share the Good News of Jesus. Postal teachers spread Gospel opportunities far and wide on a large scale, filling a crucial need where electronic communications are rare. Online teaching allows Christians to form relationships and share the Gospel through rapid communications.

For me the bottom line is this: While the Great Commission challenges us to reach billions on a global scale, it's comforting to know that God gives us a job we can do, and He provides the tools. Whether using WBS or other methods, we can share the Good News at home and abroad. That's exactly what God asks us to do. We simply need to sow the Gospel seed faithfully. God will give the increase.



## Invite Your Zimbabwe Students

WBS teachers, if you have students in Zimbabwe, please invite them to attend events at which American visitors hope to join WBS' Zimbabwean representatives at key centers. The main events will be held at

the Harare Polytechnic College from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and at 9 a.m. Sunday services, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at the corner of Prince Edward St. and Ellis Way in Avondale. Events are also planned for

Chitungwiza, Marondera, Norton, Victoria Falls and more.

For more information about events between June 15 and June 24, 2013, please have your student call these Zimbabwe numbers: the Avondale WBS office: 04-793984 or mobile numbers 0773-080-205 and 0778-165-295.



### CHANGE a Child (from page 1)



Bible. The authors recognize that educators take their responsibilities seriously and often

labor under challenging conditions. Benefits to the schools and society include better behaved children, less discipline concerns, growing respect for authority, and kinder treatment of others. LTLB books are about 75 pages long and contain 12 character traits, with definitions, references to Scriptures, everyday life applications, homework and activities. Each book also contains WBS' Introduction Lesson so that biblical foundations can benefit parents and older siblings also.

Missionaries Ken and Judy Kendall-Ball

now have 26 schools, with 13,000 students, using LTLB curriculum in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Soon, they and their AIMers (Adventure In Missions apprentices), will conduct the first Character Camp. They plan to extend the program to southern Zimbabwe, and possibly Lesotho where the king and queen are currently reviewing materials. U.S. coordinator Sandra Smith, also an avid WBS teacher, can be contacted at 817-629-6543 or Share His Heart Foundation, 222 Mitchell Blvd., Weatherford, TX 76087.





## What To Give Up, and Not Give Up



Excerpts from a report by Sylvester A. Imogoh

**F**ellowship is rich among members at Ogbor-Uvuru, Imo State, Nigeria. But alcoholism remains a

threat. Along the Imo River grow oil and raffia palms from which residents produce alcoholic drinks. This is their occupation and trade. When the members first invited me to speak on alcoholism, I did not realize the extent of the problem. But when I got there, I saw for myself the temptation Christians face in such a community. I am happy to report that my lessons were well accepted and made a huge impact.

At a private meeting with church leaders, a younger man responded very emotionally, saying that he wanted me to do something

“right here and now.” He explained that his father drank and also kept a bottle of *kaikai* [local gin] from which he entertains his guests daily. The young man asked me to direct his dad to go home right away and break the bottle. There was silence since all, except me, knew the father, who was also present in the room. [When informed] I praised the son for his courage and pleaded with his father not to punish the son for “reporting” him in public. The father spoke up, without any persuasion, and renounced alcohol from that moment. Everyone was filled with joy.

[In another village] we met Michael Nwankwo who is now an older man in poor health. We discovered that Michael had studied with World Bible School in the 1970s. He returned to the village when no more prospects were found for jobs in the city. Even after so many years, he was able to identify the church of Christ with the doctrines he had learned from his WBS studies. This is why I always encourage WBS teachers, “NEVER GIVE UP!”



### CHANGE Us (from page 1)

to follow God instead of self. Daily we re-lift that cross. Every day WBS lessons reach near and far, dispelling ignorance and urging that commitment.

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

Ambassadors like Paul carried that command to Athens.

Today God “commands all people” through us—the repentant—who turn from selfish agendas to obey His Great Commission. But have our lives changed? Are we consumed with living and sharing His Word? Or are we comfortably insulated? We enjoy each other. But take extra time and effort to teach *others*?

**Every 30 seconds someone new comes to WBS asking to be taught the Bible.**

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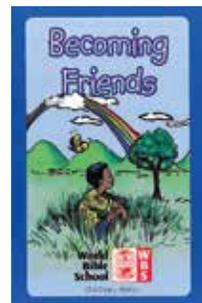
We urgently need you to take at least a few students. Does that open door intrigue and excite you? After all, this is not about creating interest. These souls take the initiative to contact us specifically for Bible study.

True, some who apply drop out—which so discourages some teachers that they quit, too. Perhaps they forget that we must encounter poor soils to find “good soil” hearts. Are we more attuned to microwave convenience than patient seed-sowing? If we dislike some detail in a method, do we disdain it? My response is, “The point is not WBS, but reaching people. How many come to *you* to learn the Bible? How much Gospel seed do you sow? How many turn to Jesus?”

Change includes being open to greater effectiveness. To a prospective programmer, I recently said, “At WBS the only ‘sacred cow’ should be the Gospel itself. Besides the inspired Scriptures, all else should be subject to review and improvement.”

## Children’s Series

**S**hare His Heart has a motto: “When you share the heart of God with a child, you open a door that will never close.” World Bible School also believes in the importance of children. We were deeply concerned when many children were applying for WBS courses and we had nothing age-appropriate for them. In response, Kay Banta, a WBS teacher and public school teacher, offered initial lesson materials that WBS developed into the Children’s Series of three courses: *Becoming Friends*, *Growing as Friends* and *Friends Forever*. Simple English stories feature two children, Don and Kay (we selected that name to honor the real Kay), who learn from their grandparents and parents about God, the Bible and life—laying a foundation for future learning with WBS’ Master Series. Grading is minimal for the teacher. But each course is packed with “Extra Activities” for students to do on their own or with their families. When children aged 8-12 apply, do what you can to fulfill Jesus’ admonition, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14).



Unfaithful servants return their talents unchanged. Faithful servants invest for growth. Problems and opportunities demand creative solutions. WBS’ 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembers solid foundations *and* adapts to a changing world. While we honor founders, we also envision exciting next stages (hence the six intensive days).

If you think of WBS as old or irrelevant, please look again. I recently visited with a WBS teacher whose little team is amazing. Their conversions were not at Pentecost or in the 1950s. They involved 2,000 confirmed baptisms *in 2012!* And that was through postal WBS. Just think what might happen using WBS Internet. Both postal and Internet serve the cutting edge of evangelism locally and globally. Both call for changed attitudes and genuine repentance—whether from the student or the teacher or the reader of this editorial.



# The Power of One

By Gale Scott

The book *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay relates one young boy's influence in ending apartheid in South Africa. While reading this book, I related "the power of one" to World Bible School work: the power of one teacher sharing the Gospel and the power of one truly converted student.



**Adjayi (right) at his mother's baptism**

In January 1983, I began studying with just such a student, a young Muslim in Nigeria named Oyetunde Ajayi. We studied the WBS lessons and aspects of the Muslim religion as compared with the Bible. A year later he wrote, "My mother and father are Muslims. When I was born, they killed a goat and gave

me a Muslim name, but now I want to become a Christian. I want to be baptized now." He walked 60 miles to the nearest congregation, arriving on the Lord's Day, March 11, 1984. Oyetunde was baptized into Christ in a river among his new brothers and sisters, now his only family after being disowned by his Muslim parents.

From the moment he was raised from the water, Oyetunde was convicted that his mission on earth was to spread the Gospel. After graduating from Nigerian Christian College, he preached for five years in Nigeria before returning to his native Togo. He dropped his Muslim name Oyetunde and adopted the Togolese name Adjayi Inoussa. He has preached locally in several locations in Togo and conducted numerous missionary trips into other French-speaking countries, such as Senegal, Ivory Coast and the Gambia.

## **Adjayi's Muslim mother was baptized into Christ at the age of 85.**

He has also taught regularly at the Cotonou Preacher Training School in Benin where the French African Education Foundation recently appointed him Assistant Director.

Through all these years of preaching to all he met, Adjayi never gave up on reaching his Muslim parents. His father passed away, but a few months ago Adjayi's mother asked to study further. She was baptized into Christ at the age of 85! She now lives with Adjayi's family who provides both physical and spiritual support for her. Here is "the power of one"—one WBS teacher reaching



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one student whose influence makes hundreds more true disciples of Christ. You are one person. Will you partner with WBS to help us reach many more? Waiting among them is another who will demonstrate the "power of one."



## *Upcoming with WBS...*



*...to whom honor is due.* As we celebrate our 40th, let us know of WBS teachers and coordinators who also should be celebrated.

