

# 346

prisoners are spiritually freed in Zimbabwe.

Gale Scott — CEDAR PARK, Texas

As designed by the Great Commission, Jesus' church grows when disciples make other disciples. One such disciple is Chris Magadu, follow-up leader with the Gospel Chariot in Zimbabwe. Dave Meikle, a commercial farmer, brought Chris to Christ as a young boy. Chris' father was a traditional animist and disowned his nine year old son. Dave and Irene cared for him and he worshiped with their farm congregation. After graduating from Mutare School of Preaching, Chris continued sharing Jesus with others.

### From a new Christian in a Zimbabwe prison:

Oh! I was so very excited to be baptized on Thursday! I want to thank God for this opportunity that He gave me when the man of God (Chris Magadu) came here on Thursday. I know the Bible says, "No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and Spirit." So these days I'm experiencing new life in Christ Jesus. I thank God [who] gave me His only begotten Son to save me away from death. God is teaching me how to cooperate with others, and to have more time to pray.

We teachers at Westover Hills in Austin wrote to Alice Mhlanga and Chris about our many responsive WBS students in Zimbabwe's prisons. When Chris first inquired at the prisons, he encountered opposition. After two months of travelling, meeting officials and completing



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## Many Will Come

Did Jesus know the Great Commission would become the *Greater* Commission?

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Mark 16:15—"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature"—was already ambitious when 300,000,000 inhabited the earth. Today, at 7,000,000,000, "creatures" have multiplied over 20 times! Billions live in regions hostile to Christian messengers. Did He take into account our 21st century situation?

disciple to obey all of Christ's commands, which includes the command just given—the Great Commission. Taking Him seriously, we all give ourselves sacrificially, and similarly train each new disciple. Involvement and multiplication will spread the Gospel as rapidly now as then.

**Aim for many!** We hit what we aim for. Aim for a few, reach a few. Aim for more, reach more. Jesus aims high: "every creature" implies both vast numbers and individual care. Biblically, the one leads to the other. Jesus taught *multitudes* from which came *individuals* for personal attention. In new cities Paul started with large crowds, then he disciplined the most responsive.

**Let God work!** Obeying His Commission, we spread Gospel seed to "every creature" within reach. Sown prolifically, God's seed results in great harvests (John 4, Acts 2). He promises, "Many will come from east and west"—so many from so many nations that they defy counting! (See Matthew 8 and Revelation 7.)

Do you trust God to work through you? Start now by becoming a WBS Study Helper. Or give to share Jesus with many. Learn more at [worldbibleschool.net/teach](http://worldbibleschool.net/teach) or call 512- 345-8190.



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Yes, Jesus knew! He gave us the Great Commission anyway! His vision was not limited to a few here and there. Jesus *still* wants "every creature" worldwide to learn the Good News. So how do we reach *many*—many more than we can imagine. Stories in this *Action!* point the way.

**Believe!** Trust that He cares for each of those 7,000,000,000 individuals, and means for each to be reached. Trust that what seems impossible to us is possible with Him.

**Give yourself!** Matthew 28 requires each

# Welcome Brian Davis!

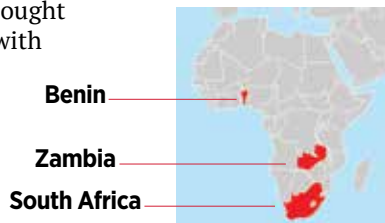


**W**e at World Bible School are pleased to welcome Brian Davis. Brian is a veteran of inner-city outreach in Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and in Cape Town, South Africa. He is also a veteran of missions to parts of the French-speaking world, serving in Benin (after marrying Sondra Boyd and joining her team there) and with Congolese refugees in South Africa and northwest Zambia. The Zambian work extended to church planting—16 village church plants in seven years—among the Kaonde people under Chief Mumena. Today their Mumena Bible College continues to mature and train for leadership.

With the chief’s encouragement, the mission also took on facets of holistic development including education, agriculture, water resources, small business and health. Ten American and African families participated in the team effort, along with ten two-year apprentices, campaigners (30 to 60 annually) and many visitors—mainly from the sponsoring congregation, Hillcrest church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. Partners in Cape Town and Zambia included Sondra’s parents Don and Rita Boyd.

After the Zambian works matured, Hillcrest brought the Davises to Abilene in July 2012. Brian works with the coordination and training of Hillcrest’s extensive outreach efforts, both global and local. Many facets include WBS. For example, WBS plays a role with the Congolese, the Zambians and the Zimbabweans. Hillcrest has also developed its own customized “WBS Connect” for local outreach.

When it became evident that Brian’s talents should serve more widely, WBS leaders and Hillcrest leaders met to consider prayerfully how best to advance the Kingdom. Brian joined the WBS staff full time March 1, 2015. His WBS service focuses now on church relations and continues to include significant participation with Hillcrest missions. Sondra and the boys, Noah (15) and Bryson (12), along with the Boyds, plan to move to the Austin area this summer.



from page 1 - **346 Prisoners**

paperwork, he gained permission to preach and baptize at the Whawha prisons in Gweru and Mutimurefu prison in Masvingo. During the month of February, he baptized 249 students studying with teachers at Westover Hills in Austin, North Boulevard in Murfreesboro and Belleview in Nashville. Chris used the portable baptistery purchased for the Gospel Chariot—which has been very busy and a wonderful investment.

In addition to those already studying WBS lessons, 97 other prisoners responded to Chris’ preaching. They were baptized and enrolled with WBS for further instruction. As in other



**Brian Davis with Dave and Irene Meikle, who cared for Chris**

nations, Zimbabwe’s prisons are fertile fields for the Gospel seed. We prayerfully encourage these new disciples to continue to grow and to make disciples in their turn, both in and after prison. To share Jesus is to share freedom!

We treasure our relationship with Alice, Chris and others who work so diligently in follow up. So many WBS study helpers and souls depend on your loving, diligent work. We thank God for your partnership, and pray for your well-being and success.

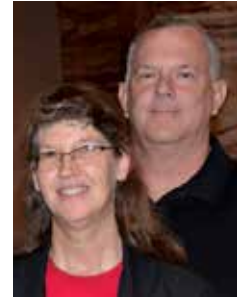


**Chris Magadu**

# One (Among Many)

Sharon Gardner — CEDAR PARK, Texas

**T**he Westover Hills church of Christ sent about 73,800 lessons to 54,334 different students in 2014. We had 665 baptism requests. Westover certainly reaches “many,” but here is one individual’s story.



**Sharon and Don Gardner**

Munyaradzi, a prisoner in Zimbabwe, wrote, “I am in prison. I want to follow Christian ways but my mind tells me not to. My parents were not religious and I had never attended the word of God. I hear many people say Jesus is the son of God. Can you tell me how he became a son of God and yet God is not a human being? Is it true that Jesus was the son of God? Was he living in this world? How can I believe those events? Who is the eyewitness of those events? Forgive me because I do not believe the Bible. The Bible was written by men. I believe our spirit mediums and

**“Your course is shedding more light about the Word of God. I am now a new Christian!”**

ancestors because I saw their wonderful miracles. Or did God take a pen and write a Bible himself?”

To answer such basic questions, we sent *Knowing Jesus* in addition to *God Has Spoken* and *This is Good News*. We also sent a Bible ahead of schedule. When Munyaradzi returned his answers, he wrote, “Your course is shedding more light about the word of God. ... I am now a new Christian. I thank you a lot because you encouraged me to understand the good news through your Bible course. ... All along I never knew that I can become a new creation. ... Acts touched my heart because a killer, murderer, persecutor became a Christian. I myself was a sinner more than Paul of Tarsus. I’m in prison serving four years. I was a killer, robber, rude, but I was never sentenced to death. Maybe it was God who caused that. I don’t want to go back to my ways again. I’m no longer to be called a host of evil

**continued on page 5**

# Ruth Orr Memorial Wall of Honor



*James Brock and Kevin Rhodes put the final Wall of Honor touches on the newly transformed WBS office.*

**R**uth Orr (1939-2014) was an everyday Christian. Yet she had an extraordinary passion for sharing Jesus as a WBS study helper, coordinator and mentor. To honor Ruth's legacy, the **Ruth Orr Memorial Wall of Honor** has been instituted at the WBS office in Cedar Park. It recognizes WBS coordinators and study helpers who, like Ruth, have made a spiritual difference in the lives of others. The attractive wall displays a framed photograph and printed tribute for each honoree.

**Individuals** can sponsor a friend of WBS on the Wall of Honor with a tribute gift of \$500 or more. **Churches** can also use the Wall of Honor as an appropriate way to duly recognize your unsung WBS heroes, both past and present. Tribute gifts for the Wall of Honor will be dedicated

**to equipping WBS study helpers to teach more, and teach more effectively.**

**Your generous gift will advance the WBS mission so cherished by the person you honor: to fulfill the Great Commission. Request a submission form at [honor@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:honor@worldbibleschool.net).**



**WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Action!**

**Editor: John Reese**

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# Remembering Alice

Tom King and Amanda Witt — DENTON, Texas

**A**lice Ann Douglas Bradshaw was born in 1940 in Shamrock, TX. She was married to Durward Bradshaw, with whom she raised two sons, David and Charles. She passed peacefully from this life on December 20, 2014. Following a private burial, the Singing Oaks church of Christ in Denton celebrated her life. Alice was devoted to the Lord. An excellent teacher, she used this talent generously—with her own children and grandchildren, as a high school and college teacher, and with ladies classes. Her passion was World Bible School. She began in 1988 with 25 students. By the early nineties, that number had grown to 400, with which she launched the WBS program at Singing Oaks. Twenty years later, the program had grown to about 100,000 students and 40 workers.



Alice was truly a missionary at heart. She took deeply and personally Jesus' command to share the Good News. She worked long hours, and when the topic arose, always had the same answer: "Well, the pay at WBS is certainly not anything to write home about, but the retirement benefits are absolutely *out of this world*."

The WBS workers at Singing Oaks consider Alice to be a pioneer who showed us the way to be involved in the Great Commission.

**Do you know WBS coordinators and teachers like Alice and Donnie? Celebrate them and carry forward their passion with World Bible School's Wall of Honor. See page 3 for more details.**

# Early Days & Donnie

Dianne Dodds — LOMITA, California

*Editor's note: Donnie Dodds passed away in February. His wife Dianne is the daughter of Howard and Margaret Cox of Mission Viejo, CA. They worked closely with Jimmie Lovell and his family to launch World Bible School. I asked Dianne to share her thoughts since we all owe much to their pioneering efforts. Please be praying for her family, including her parents who, like Tex Williams, are experiencing declining health.*

**D**onnie Dodds was born December 28, 1948, and died February 12, 2015, from heart failure. He was born and raised in California. We were married 44 years and have two sons, Matthew and Jason, and four grandsons. Don worked for 32 years at General Telephone Company. He loved his family, and enjoyed going to all of the boys' activities.

I started working for Jimmie Lovell when I was 15 years old, typing thank you cards for the "Miss A Meal" program. My Mom and I went twice a week to Jimmie's house to help with World Bible School.

Later, Don and I worked with WBS at the Torrance church of Christ. We recruited teachers and sent lessons to foreign students. After [overwhelming results from] advertising in Africa (1974-1975), we were desperate to find teachers for all the students who enrolled in WBS.

Don, Matthew, Jason and I also stocked WBS supplies, processed the teachers orders and packaged them up for shipping. Dad and I handled billing and records. We are glad to see how WBS has grown through the years.



*From top left: Chuck (my brother), Donnie, Howard (Dad), Dianne, Margaret (Mom), Matt and Jason*

# Many Years, Many Touched

Hesikiah Williamson — SEAGOVILLE, Texas

**M**y wife Barbara and I have been involved in the World Bible School Program for 27 years. We worship with the Seagoville church of Christ where together we coordinate the WBS Program. At this time we have about 15 teachers who diligently work each month to reach the lost through WBS. We average mailing about 600 WBS lessons every two months and have touched needy lives in the countries of Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Malawi. We thank the Lord Jesus for World Bible School and pray for its continued success around the world.

from page 2 - **One Among Many**

but an instrument of God. I want to preach and spread the good news of God when I go back home. Does God allow me to spread his glory?" He had been reading the Bible, as evidenced by many questions on Genesis and Exodus. I replied with a six-page letter, and also assured him that God has a long history of working through imperfect people. He promised more questions, especially about Leviticus and Numbers. Chris Magadu baptized Munyaradzi into Christ on February 19, 2015 (see page 1).

from page 8 - **"Many" and Relationships**

Wait. Weren't relationships important to Jesus and the apostles? They were, and are. But thinking "relationship first, Gospel second" was not their controlling factor. **God** was, and is. If He opens an opportunity to share the Message with many, then follow His lead. He commands us to take the saving Gospel to "every creature." They are many. Their need is urgent.

That is why many of us use World Bible School. God opens postal and Internet avenues for meeting people remotely (which often fits modern preferences). So we start there to share Jesus. Not all go on to fruition. But, like Jesus with the multitudes, the Word itself sifts through the many to find the few—true seekers—who become close like Jesus and His disciples.

Always be friendly. Try to win your friends. But never turn friendship into your "precondition" to fulfilling the Great Commission that calls you to share Jesus with as many as possible.

# 7 Years: 1,658 New Births

Ray Jones — HUNTSVILLE, Alabama

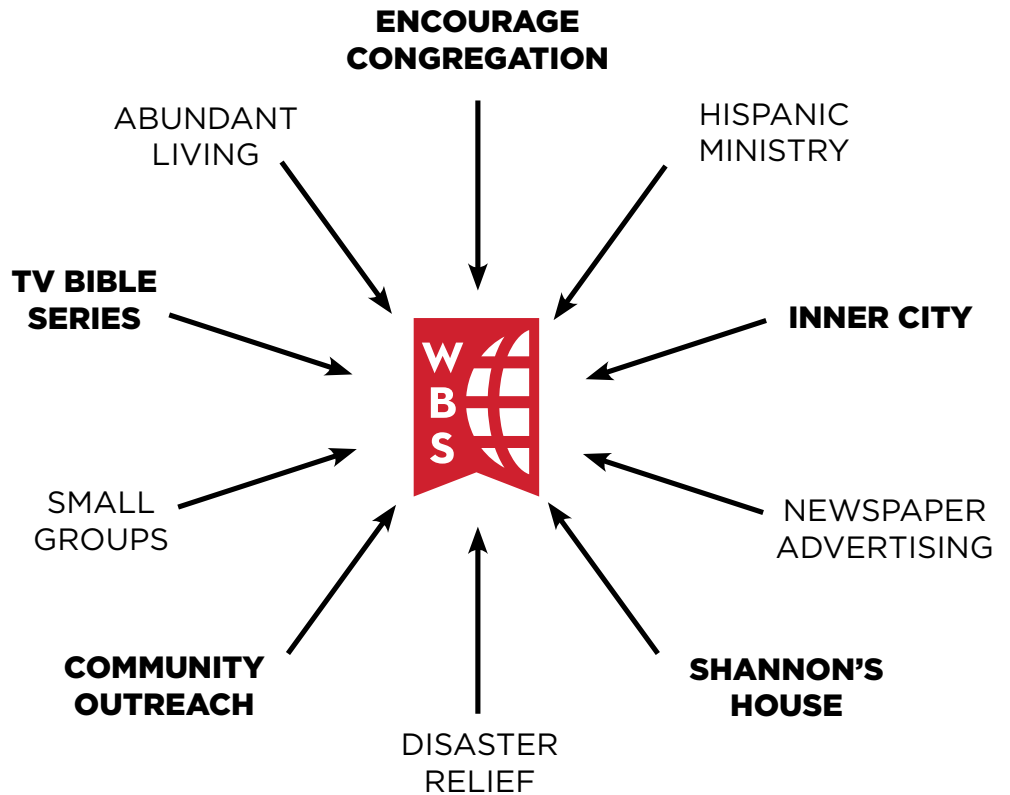
At a time when some methods are languishing, the approach I outline here can be effective for any congregation. The church of Christ at Mayfair, my home congregation, has been using portions of this method for the past seven years and can point to over 1,658 baptisms. We use World Bible School as the basic teaching tool. Currently, we have about 60 members engaged as Internet and postal teachers. These Bible studies target six countries: the USA, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi and Ghana.

WBS lessons are well-organized and clearly point the way to salvation. They are easy to read and they focus on the Bible. Internet grading is automated, and postal grading is expedited by using grading keys. We emphasize adding personal touches.



Ray and Libby Jones

The most difficult task for the individual churches teaching the WBS material is getting prospective students. The WBS base in Cedar Park abundantly supplies teaching groups with prospective students and their addresses, particularly foreign students. Domestic students are harder to come by, so we at Mayfair find these through some ten major ministries for community outreach. Mayfair features our minister in a weekly TV program that has been very effective. The disaster relief team (called “the hammerheads”) helps victims rebuild after a disaster. Occasionally, we honor local firemen, policemen and hospital workers. Those are a few examples. Each time we have a contact through these ministries, we do so asking nothing in return, but suggest that they enroll in WBS. Many times we get students from these efforts and by just asking—often using an invitation-to-study card.



Ray's schematic shows how ministries and outreach efforts feed contacts to the congregation's WBS teaching team which then refers the most responsive for personal follow up.

**Anyone can be a Web Study Helper.**  
**If you can use email or your smart phone,**  
**you can do this. Get started today at**  
[www.worldbibleschool.net/teach](http://www.worldbibleschool.net/teach)



## Small Price Increase on Older Lessons

WBS keeps prices low for quality teaching materials by printing large volumes. However, older courses are in much lower demand now, so we must increase their prices at this time.

Effective June 1, 2015, the following lessons will be priced at 55 cents, a nominal increase of 5 cents each:

- The Church*
- The Christian Life*
- Six Lesson Red Course*
- How to Become a Christian*



Thank you for partnering with us in sharing the Good News of Jesus to a lost and dying world. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

## Reaching Many in Nigeria

WBS seminars produced 66 baptisms.

Doug Wheeler — NORMAN, Oklahoma

**D**uring this year's trip, I witnessed 66 baptized into Christ at the various villages and cities where we held World Bible School Seminars or Leadership Seminars.



Gospel preachers at the Great Workshop

An outstanding follow up worker for WBS is Sylvester Ademola. He preaches and supports himself as the Headmaster of the Primary School in his village. We had many brethren going out two by two to evangelize the area. Many were taught the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Bible. As a result, 17 people were baptized! Several area congregations will assist in nurturing these new converts.

The Great Workshop 2015 was held at the Campus of West Nigerian Christian College near Abeokuta, Ogun State. Some 345 preachers attended this four-day event. These preachers each received four Bibles for use in their ministry, 250 evangelistic tracts by Sylvester Imogoh and three study books. Abiodun Owolabi, Director of WNCC, was the host minister for The Great Workshop 2015.

Sylvester and Sandra Imogoh, Nigeria



Chaplain Bill Lewis — Colorado



## Many in Prisons

**D**an Kafka began working in the state correctional facility in 2007. When I joined Dan, he had already implemented World Bible School and other Bible courses. We offered the Thompson Chain Reference Bible to series completers. My full time presence in the facility boosted WBS use, and we have presented 100 Thompson Bibles over a four year period. The prison allows us to offer baptism twice a year. We attribute 80 baptisms in large part to the WBS studies. We preach two to three times each month to the two churches on Sundays and do personal counseling. When

Dan assumed more work with the Holyoke church, I ministered to the 2,500 offenders. I could not accomplish this Gospel work without WBS. It takes the student from basic belief in God to full obedience.

Prisoners tell me how much Bible they learn from WBS courses. They are thrilled to learn the truth of how the Gospel is presented in the New Testament. One entered my office and said all he had heard before was to be saved only by the "sinner's prayer." Another came in and announced, "I need to be baptized," without any personal contact with me beforehand.

**The prisoners are thrilled to learn the truth of the Gospel.**

Many greatly appreciate and treasure the Thompson Bible. Working with the criminal mindset, we understand some are insincere, yet we gladly award the Bible. We are content to have Bibles in circulation believing they will produce fruit.

As Jesus said, much remains to be done (Luke 10:2), and the Adversary is at work. We are content to know that many will find their eternal presence with the Lord through these efforts. Look what the Lord can do with just the few of us and daily prayer and the help of a resource like WBS.

## Reaching Many in India

Joshua Gootam — KAKINADA, India

**T**he Lord raised servants like J.C. and Betty Choate to cover parts of the world with the knowledge of God's word through radio, television and literature. They arranged broadcasts in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and English—languages that literally cover the Indian subcontinent.

Most contacts were enrolled in free Bible Correspondence courses. Soon hundreds and thousands began to obey the Gospel, resulting in numerous congregations. Over four million have enrolled in [local language] Bible Correspondence Courses. Each one who completes the course in Telugu or Oriya gets a Bible for free. From TV broadcasts ([www.satyavanicoc.com](http://www.satyavanicoc.com) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)), we now receive an average



Gospel gatherings in India



**Joshua Gootam (left) is taking the good confession. His son Ricky (background) is the third generation of an evangelistic family.**

of 200 letters per day asking for Bible correspondence courses. Our office phone constantly rings with calls from our contacts. Our Telugu monthly magazine *Satya Waku* (*Word of Truth*) goes to 11,000 homes, while the Oriya magazine goes to 3,000 homes. As the waters fill the sea, this state of Andhra Pradesh is being filled with the glory of the knowledge of God's word.

# “Many” and Relationships

Follow Christ’s example. Be fishers of men.



**P**eople don’t care how much I know until they know how much I care.” This familiar maxim drives much of modern evangelism. The pace is slow since earning credibility often requires caution, resources and time—lots of time. “High maintenance” relationships affect how many I can reach. But the logic is irrefutable, right? How can I influence people who don’t know me personally?

Try a different perspective. Re-examine any model that revolves around *me*. While friendship is always desirable, it is not the cornerstone. **Christ** is.

Think about John 3. When Nicodemus came, Jesus *immediately* led with the new birth. (Jesus also ignored an obvious cue for a friendly start.) In John 4, Jesus met a stranger and *immediately* discussed salvation, marriage, worship and the Messiah. Despite deep distrust between Jews and Samaritans, “many” at Sychar believed within two days. How? **God** was already at work. His seed-sowers had long prepared this harvest (John 4:37-38).

**While friendship is always desirable, it is not the cornerstone. Christ is.**

God also prepared Paul’s audiences. Imagine Paul using this logic: “Since no one in this new town knows me, I’ll work first on gaining their trust and appreciation. Then, based on my service and friendship, they may be ready for my message.” How long would that process take? How many would it reach? Fortunately, Paul was **God**-centric (not Paul-centric). He saw God’s role as central—already there, already in charge, investing power in His Word (not in Paul’s eloquence or personality). Therefore, Paul obeyed the Great Commission: He spoke to many complete strangers in synagogues, markets and public forums.

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## Many Blessings

**S**ince 1997, Benny and Donna Baker and Mission Para Cristo have been the conduit for many blessings to the Jinotega (Northern) region of Nicaragua. MPC blesses through medical services, educational opportunities, help for the poor and the imprisoned, and spiritual outreach through 24 local congregations. Benny writes, “We recently delivered 360 Bibles with each having the new World Bible School first lesson custom-printed for Nicaragua. They were for the rooms at the Las Mercedes hotel and also for each of the hotel staff. It was

special to have the staff saying thank you for their Bibles. Gerogina (a manager), the lady in the middle, asked us a couple of years ago if we could provide Bibles for the hotel.”



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