

THANKS.



GIVING.

As God's people, let's make Thanksgiving more than just a holiday.

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

American society suffers a sort of schizophrenia. On one side are secularists devoted to removing faith from public life. On the other side are believers, and a long history of religious influence. Thus the Supreme Court sits beneath a display of the Ten Commandments while forbidding such displays elsewhere. The predominant idol proclaims "In God We Trust." And there are holidays rooted in religion. The government calendar includes a national holiday (holy day) called "Thanksgiving." What in atheism, agnosticism and secularism relates to gratitude? Bertrand Russell calls humans "the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms." How can chemical combinations feel gratitude? And to whom?

Thanksgiving may survive, if only for traditional foods and sports. However, with or without that special holiday,

With or without a special holiday, Christians feel great gratitude every day.

Christians feel great gratitude every day. We acknowledge the Giver of all life who made us in His own image. We feel deeply grateful for His Son who rescues us, His Spirit who fills us, His eternal family, our families, dear friends, provisions (such as the pilgrims received), education, health, jobs, opportunities, and many more. No wonder we "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). All circumstances,

even negative ones, are packed with blessings and reasons to rejoice.

Genuine thanks leads to imitation. We admire the Giver so much that we become like Him. Thanks turns into Thanks Giving. This is generosity that is genuine and pure. No schizophrenia about the source of blessings. No division of life into secular and spiritual. No bargaining. No ulterior motives. No holding back. Join us to explore reasons for pure, generous giving that overflows from sheer gratitude.



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Editor's Note: My wife, Beth, and I worked in Zambia and Zimbabwe in parts of May and June. I spent a week with Chris Magadu and Auswich Mashabha using the Gospel Chariot for establishing new churches. Chris coordinates WBS follow up, and Auswich—also an effective and motivated evangelist—drives the Chariot. Washington and Alice Mhlanga help coordinate the calendar of appointments all across Zimbabwe, especially focusing on follow up for World Bible School students. Well over 500,000 have taken WBS courses, resulting in many new congregations. Here are excerpts from recent reports.

Thrilled in Zimbabwe!

Auswich and Ona Mashabha —
MANYAME, Zimbabwe



Auswich Mashabha

We want to thank the good God. Yes, the Lord is so good to those who love Him. We are really thrilled when God opens doors for us to reach out for souls. We thank God that through

His mercy eight souls came to the truth in one-on-one Bible studies (that we as a couple conducted) in our community.

Also, we are really happy with the fruits of follow up work for World Bible School students. For example, Godwin

Marandure had asked for the Gospel Chariot to assist with the campaign in preparation for a WBS follow up seminar. Words cannot explain the joy of the fruits of the work. Added to the body of Christ on that day were 35 souls. Russ Breshirs and Joe Gover from Mayfair church (Huntsville, AL) were also working, so it was very encouraging as we partner to win souls to Christ. I am happy to inform you that 80% of the immersed people are attending church at Manyame. We continue to encourage the others. We pray that God grant them even more as they worship Him and work that others be saved.

During August alone, 50 were baptized into Christ. Since Zimbabwe's GC inception in late 2014, we have been instrumental in establishing eight new

congregations and in strengthening the evangelism of 13 existing congregations all around Zimbabwe. The vehicle is clearly branded and we have a public addressing system with a generator. I am grateful for this opportunity to reach so many.



Auswich at a WBS tent seminar

Grateful for French Growth

Brian Davis — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Among French-speaking missionaries, Doyle and Barbara Kee of Geneva, Switzerland, are leading pioneers. Barbara specializes in World Bible School (Ecole Mondiale de la Bible or EMB), sent to many thousands of international students. Doyle specializes in advanced leadership correspondence, and often makes follow up trips to establish churches across the French-speaking world.

The Kee family and co-workers like Winfred Wright and Bren White organized the most recent French World Mission Workshop in Searcy, AR. The Workshop, held at College church of Christ in

**Arnold Dzah
of Senegal and
George Akpabli
of Benin**



Barry Baggott

Searcy attracted 140 enthusiastic participants, including WBS' John Reese and Brian Davis, a 20 year veteran of French-speaking missions.

Speaker Bill McDonough emphasized thankfulness, vision and fearless faith.

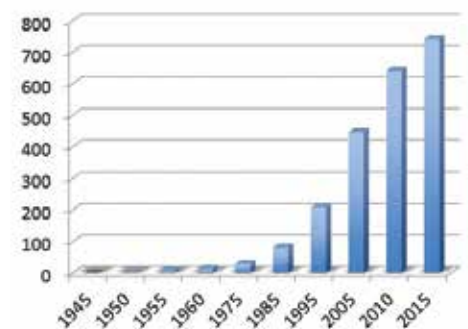
"Remember your Egypt, where you came from. You will be grateful and motivated for your mission work."

Indeed, there is much for which to be grateful. Barry Baggott, based at Crieve Hall in Nashville, TN, prints teaching materials in French, including EMB, and opens new mission fields. His comprehensive report on worldwide French missions demonstrated graphically the amazing advancements in recent years. It also emphasized that much remains to be done.



If the spirit of the workshop is any indication, God is empowering His people for even greater progress ahead.

Number of Congregations



Choose To Do More

The New Covenant is about *better* and *more*!



This past Sunday we discussed the Old and New Covenants. *"In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is read to vanish away"* (Hebrews 8:13). The old legalism was enslaving. The new frees us! Consider how this affects giving.

The Old Covenant started with a basic 10%, a baby step hinting at future strides. In the New Covenant, Jesus casts aside traditional measures and calls for the total giving of self, which includes the disciple giving up "all his own possessions" (Luke 14:33). Jesus' example is the widow. *"Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on"* (Mark 12:43-44).

Paul's example is the Macedonians. *"In a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord"* (2 Corinthians 8:2-3).

The Macedonians exercised their freedom to do *more* than the basics! Why? *"They gave themselves first to the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 8:5). When we give *ourselves*, all else follows. New Covenant words for giving include overflowing, generous, excel, loving, earnest, bountiful, freely, surpassing,



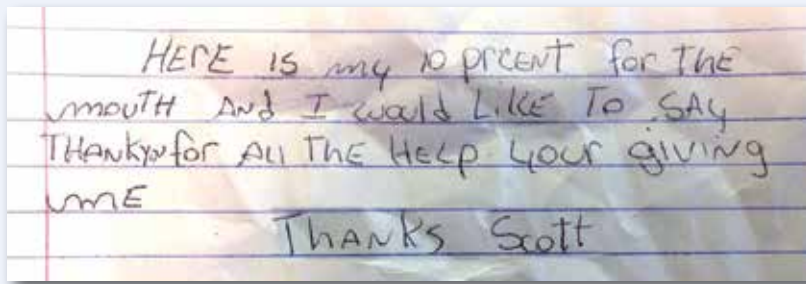
thankful and cheerful.

Do we share the spirit of the New Covenant? What will we do with our freedom and choice? What are we prepared to give back? There is a world which still needs to know about Christ and the freedom He offers.

WBS is taking this saving message to the world and you can be a part!

The New Covenant means choice because Christ first made the choice to give Himself. Choose to do better and more to spread the saving message of Christ today. Go to www.worldbibleschool.net/give.

Pat Brown is always available to talk to friends of WBS—individuals and churches. Contact him at pat@worldbibleschool.net.



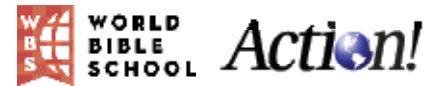
Just after Thanksgiving in a recent year, WBS received an extremely large gift. A family had sold an asset and wanted to "tithe" their profits. The amount? **\$50,000.** Wow, what an amazing gift.

We were so thankful, we laughed.

Within days, another gift came with this note. A WBS student and inmate named Scott had mailed a check from the State Penitentiary in Plainfield, Indiana. The amount? **\$6.** Wow, what an amazing gift.

We were so thankful...we cried.

Contact Kevin Rhodes at kevin@worldbibleschool.net.



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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 "share Jesus" with WBS.

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Thankful for True Wealth

A Christian family reaches the world from New Mexico.



George Brumfield

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

William Brumfield corresponded with Jimmie Lovell in the formative days of World Bible School. Their enthusiasm infected William's son, George Brumfield. For many years George's wife Shirley did much of the WBS teaching. After her death, George continues to coordinate the WBS program at the 3rd and Kilgore church in Portales, NM. Over the last decade, their WBS lessons have blessed over 50,000 students.

I had heard of George as one of our WBS heroes, and finally met him in September. He introduced himself as "just an old broke farmer." "Old?" Age 84 qualifies. "Farmer?" All his life. "Broke?" Wrestling a living from the land, and giving his nine children fine educations, was never easy. He and Shirley raised their first five children as youngsters in their 12 feet by 20 feet homestead. Later they added modest rooms, and expanded into dairy farming. Then everything was lost in an economic calamity. George re-bought the house and only recently, in his 80s, managed to pay it off. He is twice a widower.

George coordinates WBS teaching in Portales, having blessed over 50,000 students.

Yet, for all that, George gratefully adds, "I'm truly rich". His nine children are pillars in the Lord's church, which he attributes to family prayer. Every evening they used to read the Bible and pray together. "Pa George's" frequent prayer was "Father, help us to raise our children right." God has blessed George with 25 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren, all enriched by their Christian heritage. Cancer dealt a devastating blow when it claimed George's next to youngest daughter Addie, "our prayer warrior". But the family's supporting love is

stronger than ever. Faith and hope for eternity are more precious than ever. And the family shares their spiritual riches with thousands more—especially using WBS. Their godly influence thrives across America's South and Southwest, and regions of Brazil and Africa where missionary son, Tim, also uses WBS to great effect.

George at the old homestead with five children, and then eight children helping in the field.



Free To Leave

Valerie Matthews

I have to share my Dad's story. His name was Walter J. Fetch and he was a faithful WBS teacher for more years than I can remember. He and Earl Wright were the main coordinators for that work at the Northside church of Christ (Spokane, WA). He not only corrected the lessons, but sent personal letters back with each lesson, answering their questions and giving further explanations.



Walter J. Fetch

He had an old Underwood typewriter and painstakingly typed with two fingers. When he became too ill with cancer to continue doing his "job", he was very stressed. We called many involved people to take some of his thousands of students. As he lay dying in Hospice, we knew he was still hanging on for some reason. Finally, when he opened his eyes in a sudden coherent state, my mother told him that he didn't have to worry any



more. We, his children, would take care of her and that we had found teachers for all his students. His two big worries were given peace and he finally was "free" to leave this earth. His work was done. He passed shortly after.

Passages

Our hearts go out to John Ed Clark and Lloyd Deal in their respective losses. Barbara Ann Brown Deal, born in 1934, went home to the Lord on October 4, 2015. Her marriage to Lloyd spanned over 60 years. Their U.S. ministries were based in Washington, Kansas and especially Iowa (1964-1988).



Barbara Ann Brown Deal

After moving to Edmond, OK, they focused mission travels on East Africa. Barbara made 15 mission trips to Kenya and Uganda. At home, Barbara was a great asset to the Memorial Road church, including its WBS outreach. She treasured her 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. In California, the memorial for Rita Clark was held October 3, 2015. The next *Action!* should share more about her life of service.

PREP Progresses

Robin Cannon — ACCRA, Ghana

The Partners in Religious Education Project (PREP) has ignited imaginations as WBS tries to put current technology to use for the Great Commission. Can it really be so fast, so much cheaper and simpler for Study Helpers? At this writing, I am in Accra, Ghana, to see if we can answer all these questions with a solid “Yes.” The first digital exchange of Return Sheets is nearly complete, and distribution back to students is about to begin.

The process has not been without hiccups. Some scans were hard to read. Some files got corrupted here or there. But in sum, it works. Really. Only one church had difficulty with some of their scans, and this was rectified easily



Charles Odoi preparing answers for scanning

enough. The WBS staffing, equipment and connectivity is working. Church teams with whom I work have the best possible attitudes regarding this pilot effort. They have been flexible, conscientious and responsive.

We had visions of a large student count at the project’s outset and started with just under 1,000. In retrospect, this is the way to do it. Start small. Work out the kinks. Grow wisely. WBS is getting closer to polishing a solid model for major advances in speed, cost reduction and student retention. The latter is the most important. YOU SHARING JESUS should mean quicker and deeper engagement with your students, leading to better opportunities for them to know Christ through the Bible and your love for them. PREP will continue to evolve and improve, but the goal remains the same—by all means save some.

Lily: Grateful and Generous

Duane Morgan — AUSTIN, Texas

Lily became a Christian in 2002. She lived in Batang, Central Java, Indonesia. Her World Bible School teacher in America had asked for follow up since Lily had finished several WBS courses and asked that someone visit to show her what to do.



Lily with Phyllis Morgan

Today, Phyllis and I joined Lily and family members for a birthday dinner in her honor in Jakarta. It was a joyful occasion, as Lily is greatly loved. Lily is deaf. She is also well educated and very intelligent. Most of all, she loves the Lord and His church. Her generous and sacrificial spirit has blessed evangelism and benevolence across Indonesia. She gives all that she can, and does so time after time. In that, she is typical of people I have worked with in this country for 30 years. A couple of weeks before this birthday gathering, Lily quietly celebrated the day she was baptized into Christ and raised to walk in new life. Happy birthday, Lily, and even happier re-birth day!

I Have a Passion

Lesha Emerson — Texas

I have a passion for WBS. As a recent empty nester, I deeply miss daily teachable moments and feeding God’s word to my daughters. WBS has filled a part of my heart with students whom I don’t think I could live without at this point. WBS allows me to have relationships with students from all ages and from all over the world and (would you believe?) nearby in Caldwell, Bryan, College Station and Houston [Texas]. Yes, some of my students are from the local area.

I can’t wait every morning to get my coffee and grab the iPad to see who has completed a lesson! I get so excited to have a student ask questions about the Gospel, baptism, and what following Jesus looks like! I love to encourage and pray for my Christian student who lives in a Muslim country to stay strong. We Christians are called to teach the Gospel. WBS gives me another opportunity to help save souls for Christ.



Thankful to Be a WBS Teacher!

Dear WBS,

Thank you so much for allowing me to help in God’s work. Early in my school years I had been labeled and placed in slower classes because of a learning disability. Now, because I can be a WBS teacher, I no longer feel less capable than other people.

I love you all there at WBS and am so thankful to be involved in this work! May God richly bless you all and WBS.

In Christian love, Marie

Notice of Correction: At our recent Forth Worth benefit dinner, we were with James Lee and other members in the region. We are truly grateful for their partnership. James, a long-time friend of WBS, has written an inspirational book entitled “Reflected Wisdom.” He is devoting part of the income from sales to WBS. Here is a fine idea for a gift you might give in these upcoming holidays. We apologize for accidentally giving the wrong site for ordering in the last issue of *Action!* Here is the correct site: www.jpsgraphics.com/world-bible-school.

So Happy for Him!

Judy Jennings — ELDORET, Kenya

Kibii sent pictures of his recent baptism in Eldoret. Previously, at age 12, he had been baptized as a ritual during circumcision celebrations. Village leaders had taught the boys memory verses and songs and also had them baptized. Kibii said he was just following instructions at the time. He also said he “hid” from God for many years after that. Now he realizes that he does not want to hide any more. After WBS lessons, he decided to be baptized in the way revealed by Jesus and the New Testament. He is a good husband and father. He is also kind to the children on the streets, helping them with food or soap. I am so proud of him and happy for him!



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to God, giving Him credit and thanks
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as God connects Christians with seekers
 - PRICED**
for affordability and cost effectiveness
 - PROACTIVE**
and innovative, adapting to opportunities e.g. Internet
 - PERPETUATING**
as students enroll others, become teachers
 - PRIORITIZING**
the Great Commission—
loving God and neighbor
- “Every person has more right to hear the Gospel once than any person has to hear it twice.”*
Jimmie Lovell (of WBS)

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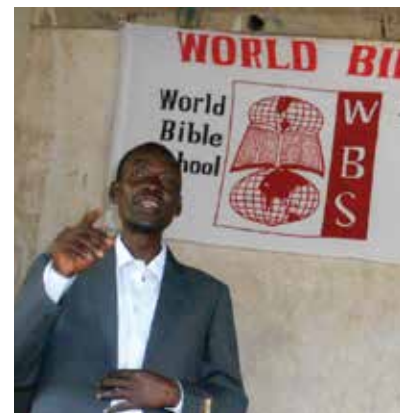
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We Thank God

Julius Ojunga — NYANZA PROVINCE, Kenya

In the name of our Lord, I wish to give this brief information about World Bible School in Western Kenya. Our aim is to evangelize (Mathew 28:18-20) through WBS courses which are free of charge. We organize a WBS seminar yearly in August. In addition, short courses take place in April, August and December.

Since the year 2000, these efforts have resulted in seven new congregations and two churches being revived. In WBS/GC campaigns, our beloved God has done wonders by touching the 136 souls who accepted Jesus Christ. We thank God for the unity of 23 churches of Christ in Nyanza Province and Western Province since they participated in recruiting students and teaching the word of God.



Julius speaks at graduation.

Between 2013- 2015, we have enrolled a total of 3,806 WBS students. Let me thank brethren from Western Kenya and from Nyanza, and Dr. Michael Reese who attended our 3rd Graduation Ceremony. Brothers who assisted with WBS from the U.S. include Tom Spoons, John Reese, James Gober and Alan Jones. George Funk sent the Gospel Chariot for July’s WBS Campaign. Phil Palmer helped us with God Bless East Africa.

W B S · C A M P A I G N



As you plan your giving the rest of this year, keep in mind the unique opportunity of Campaign 360. A number of your fellow-donors collaborated in 2015, offering to match “new” and “increased” gifts up to \$360,000. If you gave in 2014, any increase in 2015 counts. If you missed last year, here is your chance to double your gift’s value this year. Note that PREP Ghana and the new Bible (the old was discontinued) are extra expenses for WBS. This is the perfect time to respond with faith and with special generosity.

Why support



PROLIFIC

30,000,000 already taught

POPULAR

1,500,000 studying now

PARTICIPATION

8,000 volunteer teachers

PRACTICAL

user-friendly for most Christians

PERSONAL

relationships and follow up

PARTNERS

with many ministries

PREPARED

lessons point to Jesus and Scripture

POWERFUL

because of the Gospel

PURPOSEFUL

clear and direct goal to "Make disciples!"

PRODUCTIVE

hundreds of thousands converted,
thousands of churches planted

"We are making more converts worldwide through World Bible School than all other methods put together."

Dr. Flavil Yeakley

(Church Growth Researcher)

worldbibleschool.net/teach

PRINCIPLED

based on biblical soundness

PROVEN

track record of success (40+ years)

PENETRATING

locally and globally, every nation

PURELY

motivated by compassion for needy souls

PRAYERFUL

to God, giving Him credit and thanks

PROVIDENTIAL

as God connects Christians with seekers

PRICED

for affordability and cost effectiveness

PROACTIVE

and innovative, adapting to opportunities e.g. Internet

PERPETUATING

as students enroll others, become teachers

PRIORITIZING

the Great Commission—
loving God and neighbor

"Every person has more right to hear the Gospel once than any person has to hear it twice."

Jimmie Lovell (of WBS)

Please support



worldbibleschool.net/give

Electronic Service Requested



You. Sharing Jesus.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
Action! World Bible School
P.O. Box 2169
Cedar Park, Texas 78630

**Cut out these two bookmarks to use and to share.
Ask for more as you encourage others to support WBS.
Spread the Word.**

Why Support WBS?

World Bible School exists for one simple reason: To maximize the effective use of interactive Gospel outreach by churches of Christ. As New Testament Christians we not only believe in the priesthood of the believer, we aim to practice it. In the case of WBS, the result of the Lord's wisdom is a massive volunteer correspondence force of everyday members—unequaled anywhere in the religious world. Postal WBS teachers alone have taught 30,000,000, and Internet teaching holds even more promise. The result of sowing so much Gospel seed is observable in nation after nation. Dr. Flavil Yeakley often says, "It is my impression that 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's crucial."



Many congregations that use WBS have it as a line item in their budgets. They naturally think of that as their contribution, not realizing that they have purchased but not contributed. The line item is for the purchase of WBS courses, much like buying VBS or Sunday School materials. Their purchase allows WBS to recoup the cost of printing and to prepare the next printing. That form of income accounts for about a fifth of the WBS budget. But it does not address the four fifths that WBS must raise.

Fund-raising is especially important for developing Internet tools that reach seekers and share the Gospel. The use of WBS teaching online is free. It does not reimburse development that, by my rough estimate, has cost WBS over \$1,000,000 so far. Future developments—as WBS adapts to evolving platforms—will cost that amount again. Such investment

is necessary if evangelism is to benefit from the latest technological advantages. Further, if WBS does not develop these cutting edge tools for churches of Christ, we are not aware of other entities that will. God has uniquely positioned WBS to "cast the 'Net'" both globally and locally. For example, 230,000 Americans have enrolled via Internet (the 'Net') to study with WBS. Enrollees take the initiative, asking for Bible study with us. Churches of Christ are world leaders in these methods that involve so many volunteers, but we can only keep and increase that lead through serious financial support.

This is the best kind of investment. The returns—millions of precious souls taught by everyday members and many thousands rescued by the Gospel—are truly significant, truly eternal. If we believe in Jesus, if we value His church as described in the New Testament, if we prioritize His mission, then we should consider WBS which advances His cause so effectively. WBS is simply...YOU SHARING JESUS.

upcoming...

Connect US



2016

2017