

RESTORATION:

Let's put **Christ** back into

Christianity

What message should Christians share with the world? Re-examine the messages of the New Testament. Acts 8, for example, describes Christians as sharing the Good News of Jesus and God's kingdom.

World Bible School courses seek the same focus. Like Paul with the Athenians, the WBS course *God Has Spoken* begins with a foundation about God that soon points to Jesus. *Knowing Jesus* builds faith in Christ, using an approach like John's Gospel. *Born of Water and Spirit* and *This Is Good News* focus on Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

These lessons are not about reactions or pendulum-swings. We are not "Protestants" in the sense of protesting against something. Nor are we "Reformers" in the sense of improving existing traditions. WBS lessons aim to represent Jesus as He has revealed Himself, and to share His teachings as He

intended to perpetuate them. For both, we go back to the Bible as the pure source—a concept sometimes called "restoration."

The true foundation must be Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:11). But this Jesus is no figurehead, no blank slate awaiting our ideas and wishes.

He has a will expressed in words.

We honor Jesus as Lord by bringing "every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5 cf. Luke 6:46; 9:23-24). Thus Paul began in Corinth by determining to "know nothing... except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Upon that foundation, Paul built the implications of Christ's lordship for loving relationships, worship, doctrines, gifts, and more (1 and 2 Corinthians).

Similarly, after foundational courses, WBS nurtures maturity through courses based on Paul's letters: *The Family of God* and *Live a Life of Love*. To which brand of Christianity do they point?

To Jesus! To His way as delivered in the Scriptures! If Jesus truly is Lord, there is no other way but His. Page 8 explores the concept of restoration further, and shows how you can examine WBS materials for yourself.



WBS lessons aim to represent Jesus as He has revealed Himself. We go back to the Bible as the pure source.



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WBS Internet for Brazil

Howard W. Norton — SEARCY, Arkansas



Our 13-family mission team arrived in Sao Paulo on June 17, 1961. There was virtually no literature available in Portuguese from churches of Christ. We felt an urgent need for a

Bible correspondence course in Portuguese that could reach more people than we were physically able to teach in one-on-one or group studies. After many months of planning, writing, editing and printing, *What the Bible Says* came into being. It continues to serve Brazil and has been translated into numerous languages for use around the world.

How our team would have jumped at the present opportunity to teach the Gospel to Brazilians with Internet courses prepared by World Bible School! WBS President John Reese flew to Sao Paulo in April and presented this new and exciting possibility to more than 500 church leaders and members in key gatherings of Christians from all over this nation of 200 million inhabitants.



John Reese, Jonathan Towell and I had long discussed opportunities in the Portuguese world (Brazil, Portugal, Angola, Mozambique and other nations). Since Jane and I were already planning a mission trip to Brazil in April, John was able to join us and work on WBS, which in Portuguese is Escola Biblica Mundial (EBM).

John is a true world traveler. An outstanding speaker, he is also a people

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Mike and Vicki Ross, missionaries in Paulinia, Sao Paulo (See page 5.)

WBS as Personal Evangelism

Julia Wright — HUNTSVILLE, Alabama



My husband and I remember World Bible School students from the time we started working in the Fiji Islands in 1992 until we left in 2007.

Though it was not a big part of our work there, it was a good way for us to find people who were interested in God's Word. Several years ago, having moved back

to the U.S., my daughter's birth mother expressed interest in Bible study. Since she lived in another state, I thought something like WBS would be a good way to help her study.

I was so impressed with the current version of WBS' Master Series, begun in 1992! I decided to use it in much of my local "personal evangelism." Recently, a friend from Fiji came to visit us. She stayed with my daughter and I tried to spend lots of time with her. She shared her troubles with us and was enthusiastic to enter into all our family's activities, including going to all the church services and participating in outreach efforts. It was very natural to offer a study of God's Word to her. She and I studied WBS lessons, completing *Knowing Jesus* and *This Is Good News* together over several weeks. Despite her good knowledge of Scripture and a background in a Bible college, she still did not know what God's Word said about being saved. It wasn't long before she asked to be baptized in our local Flint River—oh, happy day! I sent the rest of the WBS courses with her as follow-up studies when she left the States for her home. I love this method and am sure other Christians will want to consider using WBS booklets for personal discussions.



The Wright family: Julia (back center, in purple) and Allen (at right, also in purple)

Editor's Note: *Julia's husband Allen preaches at Central church of Christ in Huntsville, AL. His parents Doyal and Drue Wright were the first full time missionaries for churches of Christ in Fiji (1966-1970). Julia is the daughter of Jule and Judy Miller, famous for developing the Visualized Bible Study (often informally called the Jule Miller Filmstrips). Jule and Texas Stevens developed a companion series, Now That I'm a Christian. These have been converted to DVD and may be ordered from gladtidingspublishing.com.*

"I Won't See You This Side of Heaven..."

"I've had thousands of World Bible School students, but Jae Won is my favorite," gushed Elaine Daniels while introducing him at the WBS office in Cedar Park. "And he's been the best!"



During the mid-1980s, Jae Won Lee, of Seoul, South Korea, saw an advertisement for free Bible study in the *Korean Herald*. He put the small ad in his dresser drawer, then forgot about it. Later, looking for socks, he saw it. "Now I will contact this World Bible School."

Long-serving WBS representative Erin Gammon brought Jae Won's letter, with many similar requests (mostly African), to the ACU Lectureship in Abilene, TX. Mel Daniels, an ACU chorus director and music teacher, and his wife Elaine visited the Lectureship's "big tent." At the WBS booth Erin said, "Why, Elaine, you need to share Jesus with WBS! Take these students and get started." Elaine did, as did Mel. They became committed study helpers wherever they moved, serving with WBS programs at five Texas congregations. Jae Won was one of Elaine's first WBS students. "He was smart, dedicated and persistent. And he had the nicest

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Remember the Master's Message



Summer brings a break from school for the kids, vacations, family reunions and camps. It is a great time to renew relationships. How about your relationship with God? This is a great time for spiritual renewal, for making sure we are keeping Christ in our Christian walk.

Beginning in July and through the end of the year, two exciting things are happening at WBS: 1) WBS Benefit/Event Dinners, and 2) The 2017 Match & Challenge \$500,000 funding drive.

The dinners are listed below, and can also be checked at worldbibleschool.com/events. If you find a dinner that you can attend, go ahead and RSVP. This year's theme, *The Master's Message*, will renew your commitment to God's Word and your motivation to share it with the needy. Chris Magadu, a special African guest from the "front lines" of WBS follow up, will give his unique perspective on how the Master's Message is changing lives. His compelling stories will bless and encourage you.

Don't wait for special events to express your heart for the needy. Core donors already have committed to lead the way with a hugely exciting 2017 Match & Challenge \$500,000. This is a great time to double the impact of your dollars. When the Match & Challenge are met, that will add up to \$1,000,000—half from creators of the opportunity and half from you who respond—applied to 2017's goal of sharing Jesus with over 1,000,000 new WBS enrollees. What a difference that makes for so many seekers! The real changes in real lives are so practical in the present (Christ in your life is the ultimate solution) and in eternity (rejoicing with God forever)!



This summer, make a decision to put Christ at the forefront of being a Christian. Remember the great verse in Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." There's no time like the present to begin making a difference in your own life by helping seekers find the Master's saving Message through WBS. World Bible School truly is "You. Sharing Jesus!"

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

Make plans to attend a WBS Benefit Dinner in your area and invite others to join you.



- August 11 – Austin, TX
- August 14 – Fort Worth, TX
- August 15 – Dallas, TX
- August 29 – Searcy/Little Rock, AR
- September 11 – Nashville, TN
- September 12 – Chattanooga, TN

For details and to RSVP, go to worldbibleschool.net/events.



Editor: John Reese

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Honoring Dot Bradley



We at the WBS office mourn the passing of Dorothy (Dot) Roberts Bradley on May 13, 2017. Born in Laredo, TX, she was raised in the Rio Grande Valley and attended ACU. After her marriage to Jackson Bradley, a professional golfer,

Dot worked alongside him managing golf shops and developing the Freedom Church prison ministry.

Dot began working for World Bible School in 1998 when it had modest space at the Westover church building in Austin. She brought unique experience as a small business owner and realtor. She kept manual books for WBS in journals and on ledgers. After WBS moved to Cedar Park, Dot graduated to Quick Books software. Given the title Controller, she was a long-serving member of the Management Team. Duties included facilitating the annual independent audit conducted by the CPA firm, Glass and Company. After more than 13 years with WBS, Dot retired in October 2011. Her close friend, Gale Scott, now the WBS Controller, continued to assist Dot with needs at her home.

At her memorial service, Kevin Rhodes shared memories of Dot, including her love for golf and her pet dogs. He commented on the quality of stewardship her business experience brought to WBS. Kevin concluded: "I believe that there will be untold numbers in heaven who will come up to Dot—even before meeting a Tex Williams or a John Reese—who will exclaim: 'What? You're the person who took the money and paid the bills for World Bible School? Why, I'm here because of you!'"

Dot will be missed by her family, friends and co-workers. Plans are in motion to honor Dot with a contribution to WBS and a plaque on the WBS Wall of Honor. If you wish to assist WBS with this honoring, please use the tribute gift form on pages 3-4.



Rusty Brown, and his wife Brittany, are missionaries in Ecuador. Rusty also provides technical and practical support for WBS' Spanish teaching tools. The Brown's latest arrival is Logan Orion Brown (19.5" and 7.2

lbs). Congratulations, Rusty and Brittany!

Editor's Note: Below is the text on a recent plaque gracing our "Wall of Honor". You can honor teachers and coordinators like Loyce similarly. Request a submission form from sheryl@worldbibleschool.net.

Wall of Honor Highlight: Loyce

Over 39 years of WBS service, many as a WBS Coordinator, Loyce Grubbs Horn first heard about World Bible School in 1977 when Sun Valley church of Christ sent her on a mission trip to St. Lucia, West Indies. Highly motivated, she began teaching via postal mail, then progressed to email, and is now a web study helper with students from all over the world.

After the passing of her husband, Phillip Grubbs, she married Don Horn in 1981. They attended the Skillman church of Christ where she was instrumental in setting up WBS. Skillman sponsored their work with the African Christian College in Swaziland. They followed up on receptive WBS students while pursuing and teaching new students when they traveled in Swaziland, Nigeria and Jamaica. The Horns retired in Houston, but after the passing of Don and at the age of 82, she moved back to Dallas. She volunteered as secretary for the Main Street church of Christ and coordinated the WBS program there. Now 91, Loyce is back in Houston helping lead the WBS program at Southbelt church of Christ. She began the Connect US effort to reach her community and has a personal campaign URL for her own students. She works daily teaching WBS students and is thrilled when she gets a new student or a soul is saved through baptism.



Loyce Horn noting her plaque

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handwriting!" He devoured the WBS Bible lessons and materials sent by Elaine. Before long, Jae Won was baptized into Christ. Elaine wistfully wrote him, "I know I won't see you this side of heaven, but I'll see you there."

In 1995, however, Jae Won traveled to Ohio for business. He explained to us, "I had to go to Texas while I was here. I had to meet my WBS study helper." He called the Daniels and announced, "You don't have to wait until heaven. I'm coming to Texas!"

Jae Won, now retired from business and high school English teaching in South Korea, made a second visit in May, 2017. "I had no other reason to come to America. I just had to come back to see Elaine and Mel." The three enjoyed a wonderful Memorial Day weekend, trying Korean kimchi, deciphering "Texas English" and worshipping with the Georgetown church of Christ. What a great blessing to be together in Christ and in Texas—this side of heaven!



Mel and Elaine Daniels and their guest, student Jae Won Lee

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person. Although much of Brazil is new to John, he jumped right into whatever group he was with and explained current opportunities for online teaching of the Gospel. Brazilian church leaders immediately saw the opportunities and are anxious to get started with this tool for evangelism and edification.

We are thankful that Mike and Vicki Ross (pictured on page 2), missionaries in Paulinia, Sao Paulo, will serve as Internet support for Portuguese EBM. For more information on this amazing opportunity, contact them at mike@escolabiblicamundial.net.

Student Overload —A Simple Fix

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas



Over time I've had many people tell me how excited they are to share the message of Jesus to far corners of the world. Some have done it for years and, especially from printed lessons, they have received more and more

referral student names... until finally they couldn't keep up. In frustration, some have simply stopped teaching. More recently, when I conduct WBS online demonstrations and training sessions for prospective Study Helpers, I often hear this question, "How many online students should I adopt? I don't want to take more students than I can handle."

Both of these scenarios present a very real and important concern: How can I serve all my WBS students well, without becoming overwhelmed by sheer numbers? Fortunately the answer is simple.

For postal students, any time you receive more student names than you can handle, mail those names and addresses to the WBS office (World Bible School, PO Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630) or email them to sherri@worldbibleschool.net. We will reassign them to other Study Helpers who have requested student names.

For new online study helpers, I recommend adopting five online students to start, for two reasons. Since grading each intro lesson typically takes only about five minutes, and since some may drop out, this starting workload will be easy to handle. Also, grading those first lessons will help a Study Helper better understand how much time investment is required for each student, and how much time can be devoted to teaching. (Keep in mind that as students progress through the courses, their questions and discussions may become more probing.) There is less "referral" with online students, so Study Helpers can adopt only the students they know they can handle.

WBS teaching can and should be exciting and fulfilling. Don't let the stress of student overload become a problem. We're here to help... let us do that!

Editor's Note: *Scott Mitchell of Oregon, a long-serving evangelist and missions participant, has circulated his review of the ESV Bible produced by WBS. Here is a summary:*

World Bible School Study Edition Bible

To Whom It May Concern:

I have examined this Bible and can say:

The English Standard Version (ESV) study edition of the Bible being sold by World Bible School is a great publication that should be added to everyone's library. I strongly commend it for at least the following reasons:

1. The translation ("essentially literal") is accurate, easy to read and understand.
2. The 141 pages of helps are exceptionally well arranged and comprehensively done. This includes: Concordance—32 pages; Study Helps—over 100 pages of six major areas of study. These helps contain areas of basic Bible doctrines prepared by sound Gospel preachers, teachers and writers within churches of Christ. They did an excellent job.
3. This Bible has a sturdy attractive cover, good binding, ideal size, adequate size of print, and includes a nice presentation page.
4. The reasonable price for this Bible is only \$5.00.

I strongly urge everyone:

1. Purchase one of these Bibles for your own personal library.
2. See that every family member has one—a great gift idea.
3. Tell all the people you know about this source of a wealth of information.
4. Use this as a wonderful evangelism tool.



Anticipating the need for more inventory space because of the larger printing of Bibles, WBS ordered a 40 foot container.

Christ as King

Evaluations of the new Bible produced by WBS are so positive that the first printing soon sold out! The second printing now includes another feature: maps. Since this issue of *Action!* emphasizes restoring Christ to Christianity, we should highlight the study section entitled "Guide to New Testament Christianity". Here is an excerpt from page 1465.

The King, Lord, or Head is Jesus Christ (Jn 18:37; Eph 1:22-23; 4:5). He has all authority (Mt 28:18). We must listen to everything He tells us; those who fail to listen to Him will be cut off from God's people (Acts 3:22-23).

The King's capital is a heavenly Jerusalem, the eternal dwelling place of God (Heb 12:22). Christ reigns at the right hand of God the Father (Acts 2:33-36). Christians do not

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GOING  DEEPER
with World Bible School Study Notes

Section headline for WBS Study Edition Bible

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look to an earthly headquarters, for they are citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20). Their loyalty and obedience belong to heaven rather than to men (Acts 5:29; Gal 1:10; 2:6; Col 2:8-10).

The King's Word has been passed on by His apostles with the help of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:13; 2 Pet 3:2). What they and their fellow-prophets clearly commanded is His word and must be followed (1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Thes 2:15). Evangelists and teachers are to guard this apostolic word (2 Tim 1:13-14), and to pass it on "with all authority" (Ti 2:15; 2 Tim 4:1- 5). Sometimes Christ's evangelists form teams in which some lead and others are trained (Acts 16:1-3; 18:5; 20:4; 2 Tim 2:2).

The King's special nation is the one church. It is also called the body, temple, or priesthood (Eph 1:22-23; 2:11-22; 4:4; 1 Pet 2:9). Its members are the kingdom on earth (Rv1:6; Col 1:13). Each member is a brother of Christ (Mt 12:50; 23:8; Gal 3:26), and spiritually sits with Christ in heavenly places (Eph 2:6,18). Each has full access to God through Christ, the High Priest (Heb10:19-22; 1 Tim 2:5). This means that they do not go through other mediators, mediums or priests of any kind.

The King's people should gather in each community to encourage each other in obedience to His will (Heb 10:25; 1 Cor 11:18; Acts 9:26). This group that regularly gathers is called a local "church" or "congregation" of Christ.

Truth Beautifully Packaged

A note from WBS staffer, Lori Brady: *Chris Groda from North Jefferson church of Christ in Mt. Pleasant, TX, ordered 500 of the new Bibles. He was very complimentary of WBS Connect, as well as our printed materials. He said, "I've never seen truth packaged so beautifully." His Bibles were delivered today (one day after ordering them). He opened the box and handed the FedEx worker a Bible to take with him!*

These Are Powerful Lessons!

Laura Metz — MEMPHIS, Tennessee

In 1999, Phyllis Waugh went on a mission trip to Ghana. She was assigned to small villages in the bush, with an interpreter. In her words, "I can tell you I spent two weeks in very primitive conditions, fearful for my safety and very concerned that I would do more harm than good. But God blessed me even in my fears and through Him I was able to establish two congregations in small villages and help bring a large number to Christ. While there, [my husband] Bob and I heard wonderful stories of people learning to know Christ through WBS. One man told Bob he had bought some fish at the market wrapped in a WBS lesson. He studied it and became a Christian. Another man found a lesson blowing in a road, studied it and became a Christian. These are powerful lessons!"



Back in Texas, Bob and Phyllis joined other Christians teaching in the local jail. They also shared WBS postal lessons. After Bob died of cancer in 2011, Phyllis's postal teaching grew into her "home ministry" to prisoners and their families all across Texas.

One of Phyllis' students, Rosa, sent the name of her husband in another prison. They had not spoken for years. Phyllis wrote him and he began studies. Soon Phyllis was sending messages back and forth between the two, creating a competition between the two—who could do the most lessons. This got them back on speaking terms. They both completed all the lessons and became convicted to be baptism.

Phyllis concludes, "I have so many stories in my heart. One student sent me many lists of ladies in her pod or on her floor. They all study and pray together weekly, then these ladies send me new names. I receive so many wonderful letters of appreciation. I am so grateful for the friendships established. I give God the glory. I am ever grateful for the opportunity He has given me to be part of this great work."

In regions of Africa, World Bible School is nearly a household name partly because of the quality of the courses and partly because of hard-working student-recruiters. Don Boyd of WBS in Cedar Park, TX, recently returned from a month in Zambia working with churches for leadership training and WBS recruiting. Don's photo at right (1) shows the recruiting station set up by the Central church of Christ in Solwezi. Don's wife Rita joined him for two weeks of work in Cape Town, South Africa, where they have also been long-term missionaries. Willie Gley has long coordinated WBS recruiting efforts in West Africa. His latest photos (2, 3, 4) depict WBS stations in Ghana and Togo. French is spoken in Togo, where WBS is called Ecole Mondiale de la Bible (EMB).



Restoration and WBS

The Gospel Message is the restoration of man's relationship with God.

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Restoration is not a new concept. Since humans first rejected their Creator, the Bible's story has been about restoring that relationship. In Seth's time, "people began to call upon the name of the LORD" (Genesis 4:26). That movement, apart from one exception, eventually failed, resulting in the flood. Noah's descendants strayed, but Abraham returned to the true God.

Much later, Abraham's offspring received the Law of Moses. Israel's history split into two threads: predominant departures from God's way, and occasional restorations. The prophets called, "Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your Master" (Jeremiah 3:14). They prayed, "Restore us to Yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old" (Lamentations 5:21).

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Chris  **ianity**

They predicted the King to "restore" what David's dynasty lost (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:15-16). This divine kingdom is spiritual (John 18:36 cf. Acts 1:6-7), entered by the new birth (John 3:3-8), and destined for the ultimate restoration (Acts 3:21).

As the King with "all authority," Jesus revealed His will. He also predicted, "Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray" (Matthew 24:11 cf. Acts 20:29-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:4-5; 2 Peter 3:1-2). To the extent that we find ourselves straying, we need to be restored to His rule. This was Paul's mission, and it should be ours too.

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

World Bible School is committed to following Jesus, and thus to His will for restoration and unity. Some disparage "Restoration" as failing to fulfill an 18th century vision of unity. Real restoration is never about human vision. "We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus as Lord" (2 Corinthians 4:5). Restoration is about treating Jesus as Lord, which results in unity as He (who alone is authorized) defines it. Lack of unity today reflects human failure to follow Him, just as in the days of Noah and of Israel's prophets.

World Bible School is committed to following Jesus, and thus to His will for restoration and unity. This commitment



You. Sharing Jesus.

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Relationships

WBS is all about partnering.