



Relationships

WBS is all about partnering.

We share the World Bible School adventure with truly amazing partners! This issue of *Action!* is a tribute to the YOU in “You. Sharing Jesus.” Consider three points:

1. There is motivation. No one who is truly on board with the mission is seeking earthly reward. Why do Study Helpers communicate with strangers near and far? Why struggle with

cultural differences and follow up logistics? Why learn the new WBS tools? Why pray and persist when returns seem slow and drop outs high? In one word: LOVE! We love because He first loved us. Our associates are some of the most caring people on planet earth!

**Why pray and persist?
In one word—LOVE!—
because He first loved us.**

2. There is transformation. These are priests who proclaim the wonders of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. They share out of their own experience. What a joy to work with God’s children, not yet ideal, but being transformed into Jesus’ likeness!

3. There is team-spirit.

Jesus designed His body, the church, as a cohesive team under one Captain. What makes WBS so effective is that it reflects the body principle. These are everyday members of Christ, joining in global teamwork to score the Great Commission goal. With YOU on our hearts, we sincerely pray with Philippians:

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel.... It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart.... God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more!



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A Faithful Friend: Chris Magadu

Editor’s Note: My family and I recently hosted Chris Magadu who coordinates WBS follow up in Zimbabwe, Africa. For six of the eight weeks, Chris and I drove some 5,000 miles across the U.S., reporting to friends of WBS. He and I, with our families, have worked together since 1994. 2007 began a drive to recruit WBS students that has resulted in well over 2,000,000 enrollees. Chris and the follow up teams have baptized over 5,000 WBS students in 2016-17. As Chris spoke to groups, here are typical opening remarks. Notice how important partnerships and relationships are in Chris’ work.

It is indeed my pleasure to stand before you. In our country, surely your work is keeping us busy. I want to thank you for your efforts because you are the ones who buy WBS materials and communicate with your students. You send to us the list of those who want to be baptized, and then we do the job. So much of the work is done here. My work in Zimbabwe, with my coworkers there, is just to do the follow up work. It is really great. I want to thank you for that good work.



Beth and John Reese with the Magadu family

The name itself tells the story: *World Bible School*, reaching all nations with the Gospel. It is my pleasure to participate in this ministry. All of us must exercise patience. My father always caught fish, while others failed. I asked his secret. He looked me in the face and said, “Boy, if you want to catch fish, you must learn to be patient.”

Sometimes teachers say, “What is going on in Zimbabwe there? I’m not receiving any results.” They even say they might stop sending WBS courses. Yes, we expect results, but at times we must learn to be patient. Results will always come. At the same time, I appreciate your good work. All that I will report tonight, it is because of your good work.

As John Reese said in his introduction, I personally participated in starting 41 congregations based on groups of

WBS students. One example is Kariba. After baptizing students, we don’t just leave them. After baptizing students in a new area, we group them and meet with them every Sunday to take the Lord’s Supper, to sing and to have Bible study. Because of denominational thinking, I don’t tell them, “You are the ‘Church of Christ.’”



After three months of visits to Kariba, I missed two Sundays because of other commitments. The third Sunday, when I arrived at the place of meeting, I saw a banner: “Church of Christ Meets Here.” I was happy, but I asked them, “Who told you this?”

“We discovered it in the Bible,” they said.

My work is to facilitate their studies, and to let them discover for themselves. I am happy to tell you that this congregation to this day is very strong and faithful, worshipping God in truth and in spirit—a New Testament church of Christ.

[Chris continued with inspiring examples of changed lives. We thank God for our close relationship with this diligent partner in the Gospel.]



Chris with Austin WBS campaigners he helped host in Zimbabwe

Editor’s Note: As this Action! is being prepared, the mass shooting in Las Vegas dominates the news. This shooter apparently planned, after wreaking havoc, to take his own life. What drives a person to suicide? The stories below offer insights. They also illustrate what prevents suicide: hope, a reason to live, a way to start over—all realized in Christ. Media headlines trumpet the tragedies. They seldom tell of spiritual changes that avert tragedies. Now it is our turn to show the victory of hope over despair, of love over evil.

Saved from Suicide

Blakey Bradley — CLARKSVILLE, Tennessee

Dear Study Helper, I would like to express to you what a blessing World Bible School is to me. I am truly thankful to be able to receive the study courses, and to have you as my study helper. I am 30 years old and have been addicted to drugs since I was 16. I’ve been on and off probation since age 19. I have been blessed by God so many times and failed to see that I have been blessed. Five years ago, drug abuse and depression had me trapped in what I thought was a bottomless pit. Instead of me turning my life over to God, I let Satan take the wheel. In 2012, everything came to a climax. I thought I had no way out and that everyone would be better off without me. So, I took a

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Danny Truitt — DECATUR, Alabama

As of August, our Beltline church of Christ, team has been responsible for 58 baptisms—53 inmates and five non-inmates. As for WBS in Cuba, Alex and our team there have had 85 baptisms this year! Every soul is special in God’s sight, including John (not his real name). A few months back, things were so bad in John’s life that he bought a gun with the intention of taking his life. Thankfully, he confessed his plan to a friend. His friend said, “John, you don’t need a gun, you need Jesus.” However, this friend didn’t offer John any guidance for finding Jesus. But John thought about what his friend had said and decided to search the Internet.

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The Storms of Life



With recent hurricanes Harvey, Irma and others making known the power of nature, it has also shown our need for each other. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said something we know all too well as the rain literally fell on the just and the unjust. None in the path of these storms were different from those around them. We also saw wonderful examples of neighbor helping neighbor, along with rescue and assistance coming from all around the world. A common threat has the potential to bond us together and show the strength God instilled in his people. Ecclesiastes reminds us "...a threefold cord is not quickly broken." This fact makes Christian bonds uniquely special as we realize more than ever how much we need relationships.

Over the past few months WBS has hosted



dinner events in six cities across the U.S. At each we've shared WBS' impact of spreading God's saving message. The first-hand testimony of Zimbabwean follow up coordinator, Chris

Magadu, was informative and inspiring as he shared how WBS literally is changing the face of the church in Africa through thousands being brought to Christ. Through it all was this message: *one teacher paired with one student yields results!*

I'm happy to say the 2017 Match & Challenge for \$500,000 is still very much in force and helping to raise much-needed funding to reach our goal of 1 million new students this year. We are seeking individuals to say, "I want to be part of something truly meaningful and big—the WBS million for sharing Jesus with millions!"

Hurricanes will come and go, but the storms of life remain. In those times, what better lifeline can you offer than the saving message of the Bible? You are a part of God's plan as fellow-workers bond together to rescue those in desperate need. World Bible School is You. Sharing Jesus!

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

Demand for WBS' new ESV Bible with study notes requires WBS to lay out over \$150,000 of unbudgeted funds for the current printing. Your generous gift helps meet the demand and accelerates WBS outreach through the 2017 Match & Challenge.

2017
m a t c h &
c h a l l e n g e
\$500,000



Editor: John Reese

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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.

I have completed my personal information on the back of this form.

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Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

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Thanks, Vicki! Welcome, Rob!

George Funk — PERTH, Australia

Vicki Funk has worked with Gospel

Chariot Missions and overseen our connections with WBS since 2002.

Vicki is married to my son Quinton Funk and their daughters are Jemmica and Payton. Vicki is now realizing her dream to become a school teacher. She will be handing over her WBS duties to Rob Vander Kraats. For 15 years, Vicki has been a powerhouse helping WBS teachers and students, and making follow up connections. She has been a tremendous blessing to the ministry. She and Quinton live near us and will always be part and parcel of the work.

Replacing her is Rob, our son-in-law. Rob is a qualified physiotherapist but he can't practice due to an aneurysm he suffered two years ago. He is very lucky to be alive. Now, having this opportunity is just a miracle on top of the miracle of being alive. Wow, we are so excited to have Rob working behind the scenes for us, and not only on the WBS side but also reports and website. Vicki leaves a great legacy, and I pray Rob builds on it and helps us reach many more souls for Jesus. We love each of you, and wish you well!



Vicki Funk



Vicki shows Rob the WBS website and our follow up system.

Editor's Note: *The Byars are another recent addition to the World Bible School Wall of Honor. Instituted in honor of Ruth Orr (who, even two years after her passing, continues to receive memorial gifts in her name [see page 4]), the Wall serves as an appropriate way to recognize unsung WBS heroes, both past and present. Request a submission form from honor@worldbibleschool.net.*

Honoring the Byars! Welcoming Cindy!

Jim Crain — ARGYLE, Texas

Transition is inevitable in any congregation and in any World Bible School teaching program, especially as groups meet to grade, mail and assist each other with students. The seamless transition of changing coordinators is paramount for programs to keep on running smoothly. Transition may be necessary due to moves, health issues, or for many other reasons.

The recent transition of coordinators at the Southside church of Christ in Fort Worth, TX, is a great example of the WBS transitional process done well. In September 2017, I attended Southside's celebration of their 125th Anniversary. James (Jim) and Joanna Byars served as coordinators for seven years and were recently honored as Wall of Honor recipients. Health reasons led to the Byars turning their work over to a new coordinator, Cindy Maloney, who had previously served as Southside's church secretary.



James and Joanna Byars

Minister Steve Cloer described them this way:

"Jim and Joanna are people with the heart of mission and evangelism. They both did a wonderful job of promoting and coordinating our WBS program at Southside. But more than that, they exhibited the spirit of Christ in doing what they could to spread the Good News of Jesus. That has been the center of their lives."

We look forward to the partnership with Southside continuing for many years to come as they, and we welcome Cindy as their new coordinator.



Southside's 125th anniversary celebration

WBS *is* RELATIONSHIPS

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas



When people ask about the Study Helper's role, we often reply: "Come alongside your World Bible School student and *be a friend.*" Let the Bible, as highlighted in the courses, do the teaching. You serve as an encouraging helper and guide, much like Philip was

to the Ethiopian (Acts 8). WBS seeks to build *friendship* into every aspect of the process, beginning with the Intro entitled *The Way to Life full of friendship, purpose and hope.* The same relational principles apply to postal teaching, to Internet teaching, and to follow up. To illustrate, let me quote two sections from *The WBS Postal Program Guide*, which you can find at worldbibleschool.net/resources.

WHAT WBS STUDY HELPERS DO

WBS Study Helpers are everyday Christians who are interested in helping others know the Good News of Jesus. They use WBS' interactive lessons, both Web-based and print, to encourage people who want to receive the blessings of the Bible as WBS Students. WBS Study Helpers are of all ages, from teens to families to seniors, who want to be proactive with their faith.

As a WBS Study Helper, you'll exchange lessons with your Students, review their multiple choice lesson answers, encourage them and pray for them along the way. You can develop meaningful friendships with some of your WBS Students. You'll see Students grow in faith and knowledge. Many will come to make their own personal faith response to the Gospel.

MAKE A FRIEND

As a WBS Study Helper, you're not just mailing lessons and marking up exams. You're truly sharing Jesus, leading seekers on a spiritual path. It's very important that you try to develop a relationship with your students, to be a friend. Give them a warm, genuine welcome when your first send their *Introduction*. Introduce yourself and let them know you are happy to help them. Offer them encouragement as they study. Let them know you are praying for them. Ask about their family, where they live, what they do for a living, etc. Try to find common interests to help you gain their trust and build a relationship. Look for opportunities to address their spiritual needs. When the time is right, offer to help find a local Christian to help them with personal study, baptism and finding a local body of believers.

Love Notes

Jim Corner: On July 16, I made a World Bible School presentation to the Cherry Point church of Christ that meets in Havelock NC, and it was my 500th presentation—a ministry milestone. This work began in 1991 and there is no way I could have pictured what has transpired. I give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness. I also say a big THANK YOU to all who have had a part in this ministry.... I want you to know how

grateful I am for all that you do to mimic Jesus in your Christian walk.

Nickie Creutzmann: Dear Gale, Thank you for helping Mom [Donna Compton, who handled WBS material orders for many years]. She is doing well, happy in her retirement home 10 minutes from my house. She is 83 now and enjoys live streaming Saturn Road church of Christ. Thank you for passing along to Loveland her appreciation.

Sheryl Williams: Bruce Bailey called WBS today and said that his dad, James Bailey, was going to be turning 90 years old soon. The only thing his dad wants for his birthday is for 90 Bibles to be given to students and/or teachers who need them. James Bailey's children got together and sent a gift to cover the cost of 90 Bibles in honor of their dad's birthday. Such a sweet thing to do!

Steve Worley: Deborah Koningsburger, a WBS teacher with hundreds of students, converted Barnabas Awak in Nigeria. Steve phoned Deborah to tell her she now has a son (Barnabas), two grandchildren (his converts, Mary and Luka), and one great grandchild (Samuel) in the Gospel, who all walked in the line of graduates at the Jos-based School of Biblical Studies.

Willene Sullivan: I love the little Bible! This is such a blessing. The information in the back of the book is so informative. "Going Deeper" and "Guide to New Testament Christianity" will be so helpful to all students. Thanks!

Dear World Bible School: I found your book *This is Good News* but it [had been used and] did not have the question and answer pages in it. I am a new believer in Christ and I did not know that we must be baptized until I read your book. Please send me more information that may help me in my "walk with Christ." Amen!

Saved from Suicide Blakey Bradley—from page 2

knife and cut my own throat to end my life. I was already in so much pain from the abuse and depression that I felt no pain.

I woke up in the hospital a week later after having 38 staples and four blood transfusions to save the life God had given me. As my eyes started to adjust to the bright light, I saw all my loved ones, all circled around my bed crying. They were sad because I almost died, and happy because God stepped in and wouldn't allow me to take my life. After that, I understood that God had a purpose for me, but I couldn't leave the drugs alone. [After a Shock Incarceration Program in 2017] I will be released to go back to my family. I want to continue to receive the WBS study courses, and I have requested a Bible. I give many thanks to WBS and to you.

Saved from Suicide Danny Truitt—from page 2

His search led him to World Bible School where he signed up for postal courses. One of our Beltline WBS teachers, Catherine Henderson, took him as her student. After a few lessons, John expressed an interest in being baptized. My wife Deborah remembered that Fran, a Beltline member, had previously lived in South Carolina. It so happened that Fran had a friend who had moved to Belton where John was living. He was baptized into Christ. John is not able to drive, but Fran's friend picks him up for all services. With the help of World Bible School and many caring Christians, John has now found a nurturing church family to help him with his spiritual and physical needs. God is good!

God is at work in South Sudan!

Phil Palmer — ABILENE, Texas

In January I held a World Bible School workshop in Juba, South Sudan. Little did I know what a fire would be lit in a young evangelist there named Patrick Lazarus. South Sudan has no postal system, so American teachers cannot send lessons there in the usual way. Using the few WBS courses I had brought, and a few left earlier by Ghanaan missionary Isaac Adotey, Patrick enrolled and tutored over 100 students through all six Master Series courses over the next five months. When I returned in July for a seminar, 11 students were baptized. Since then, Patrick has baptized another 35 and currently has over 560 students studying WBS! All this work Patrick does as a volunteer without a formal job. The small congregation that he is preaching for helps him some.



Patrick Lazarus and his family

Patrick's own story is inspiring. As a university student in Juba, he met Isaac Adotey who taught him the Gospel and introduced

him to WBS. Patrick never intended to work for the church, but when he was asked to preach, the Christians affirmed his giftedness for that work. He had gone to university to get a good job to provide for his family and assist his siblings with school fees. His father also had these hopes for Patrick. When he became a Christian and devoted himself to ministry, he met opposition from his family. He was newly married, and preaching did not provide an income. But God honored Patrick's faith. In time his parents and his siblings were also converted! Patrick says the will of God changed his and his family's entire life-style!

South Sudan is still in civil war, but WBS is beginning to be a powerful tool there. Besides Juba, the brothers in Bor are also using WBS effectively. I pray that we will find a solution for supplying that nation with the courses they need.

Spiritual Refuge: Kamau Muturi—Kenya and Zimbabwe

My name is Kamau Muturi from Kenya. I am 32 years old. Previously I was struggling spiritually. My mother brought me up in a denominational church. All along, I was troubled on how things were being conducted. Giving was coerced. I used to read the Bible, and found that it had a different message about giving. Worshipping was another thing. Dancing and playing were the order of the day. When I read the Bible, I got a different message on singing. Praying was conducted as if it was a shouting match. Some people used to beat walls, others screamed while rolling on the floor. When it came to casting out demons, women were getting it rough. Our so-called bishop used to sit on them, slap them, spit on them and sometimes nearly undressed them in front of the congregation. I was terribly tired of this. When I looked at all this weird behaviour, I stopped attending any church.



As days passed by, I was seriously looking for spiritual refuge. I bought the New King James Version and started reading it at home. A Jehovah Witness and a Seventh Day Adventist took turns trying to convince me to join their respective cults. I nearly began to attend the Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall because they gave me reading tracts. But when I compared notes, I discovered a lot of errors scripturally.

An idea came to my mind: start applying for Bible school. I decided to set another three days of fasting and praying, confident that I would get a solution to my spiritual burden. When I broke my fasting, I got an inspiration to go to the Internet and search for a proper Bible school. As I was Googling and searching, I landed on World Bible School. My study helper was a lady named Coilla Smith. She taught me the word of God in a very understandable manner—word by word, sentence by sentence, verse by verse and one chapter after the other.

She introduced me to the church of Christ. It sounded strange because I had never heard of it within my local area. After much soul searching, I decided to trace it and located one, though it was very far. After some time I was contacted by a Christian. We were living about 200 kilometres apart. I went to where he was and without wasting time, I was born again! Madame Coilla Smith volunteered to sponsor me to a Bible college after she discovered that I wanted training. She secured me a place at Mutare School of Preaching in Zimbabwe. In addition to this, I offered to be a WBS study helper. I have adopted a number of students. I am ready to show others the same way.



Indian evangelists with American campaigners, **Joel and Pat Coppinger, and Jody and Rachel Adams. Two weeks campaigning in India resulted in over 300 baptisms. At one point we spoke to a crowd of over 4,000 with live TV coverage. Paul Renganathan is working with a very effective team evangelizing about 15 Asian nations. WBS lessons have been translated into numerous languages.**

YOU Are a Blessing!

If it is more blessed to give than to receive, then we work with the truly blessed. For WBS is all about giving so that others can receive. Giving time, personal attention, effort and resources to share Jesus with the needy. Giving to support those forms of giving. WBS feels truly privileged to steward your hard-earned gifts—including the widow’s mite, the most generous gift! All such gifts are your worship to the Father. His Son multiplies them into feasts to feed hungry seekers.

He uses **YOU** to bless the multitudes: well over 1,701,058 new WBS students in 2016 and through September 2017. We say “well over” because 1,701,058 enrolled through WBS based in Cedar Park, TX, while many others enrolled through local WBS programs and teachers—beyond our detailed tracking. God honors such serious seed-sowing. For an example of abundant harvests, see Chris Magadu’s report on page 2.



YOU blessed individual lives. For an example of the impact on one family and community, see Joe Brock’s video at worldbibleschool.net/joe. Like you, Joe struggled for traction with his first students.

But Joe persisted to find responsive students. Lawrence in Malawi was hungry for the Gospel courses. He turned from Islam to Christ, along with his wife and older children—only to be disowned and dispossessed by Yosufu, his father-in-law. Yosufu challenged Joe to a debate via Internet. Joe answered with just the Scriptures. Yosufu conceded, “This is a very strong teaching. When I pray, I want to pray in the name of Jesus.” Yosufu, who was dying of kidney failure, implored Joe, “Teach my children. Teach my children. Teach my children.” That led Joe to board a plane to visit the family in Africa, resulting in eight more baptisms. The Gospel impact there continues as Joe shares Jesus—who is the greatest blessing of all!

The Gospel impact continues as **YOU** share Jesus—who is the greatest blessing of all!

YOU provide the financial fuel for WBS to do what it does so well. How was Joe able to connect with a seeker like Lawrence? Again, you are that blessing. You fund WBS in two ways:

1. *Purchasing congregations and individuals provide about a fifth of Cedar Park’s annual budget;*
2. *Generous donors supply the other four-fifths. These empower WBS to develop teaching tools, to equip teachers like Joe, and to advertise globally (\$250,000) in order to link seekers like Lawrence with teachers like Joe.*

YOU are our advocates. When you see a line item for “WBS” in your congregational budget, that likely represents purchases for the local WBS program. We praise God for your teaching partnership. In addition, your financial partnership is essential for WBS in Cedar Park to provide evangelistic tools and opportunities to the brotherhood. WBS’ cash-flow constantly experiences demands such as the current outlay of \$150,000 for the next Bible printing. Encourage your congregation to include regular support for WBS in your annual budget as a line



You. Sharing Jesus.

POSTMASTER:

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

item separate from your local WBS program. WBS’ track record is proven—with each *Action!* piling on more evidence—and directly in line with the Great Commission. Indeed, WBS is **YOU**. **SHARING JESUS!**

upcoming...

TOOLS



Unpacking your WBS toolbox.