

DIGITAL OR PAPER?

I wish you could join our debates about which World Bible School should emphasize more: Digital or Paper? Each side scores points:

- Social statistics show vast numbers turning to Digital communications:
 - Cell phones 7 billion
 - Smartphones 2 billion
 - Facebook users 2 billion.

Yet Postal WBS is getting stronger (974,261 postal enrollments in 2017 compared with Internet's 159,631).

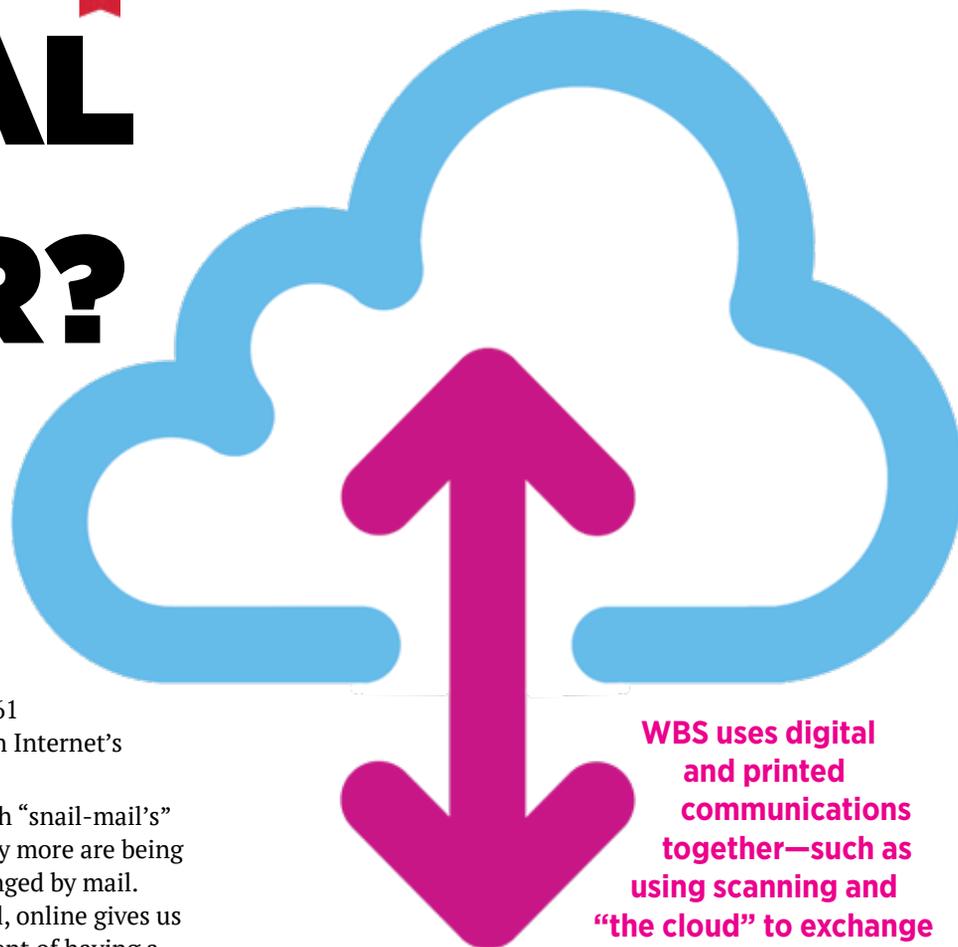
- Internet is “free” and “fast” compared with “snail-mail’s” delays and costs. Yet, due to volume, many more are being converted through printed lessons exchanged by mail. Although there is a large volume of postal, online gives us the ability to target seekers in their moment of having a spiritual question and invite them to an online bible study.
- Money directly applied to advertising for students varies with time and place. Once shipping and material costs re factored, postal enrollment (via “word of mouth” campaigns) can be cost comparable to Internet enrollment (via Google ads).

Like riveting tennis, statistics and reasons fly back and forth. Like any budding researcher, I type into Google, “Is paper relevant?” The prevailing answer is “Yes” (unless paper-mill bots are skewing results). Marketers, for example, make these statements:

“The reality is analog and digital don’t live in competition, they’re different beasts. It’s not this or that, one or the other, they are just two different technologies—they are two different tools at your disposal. And your job as a designer is to pick the right tools for the right job.”

“In an increasingly digital world, printed and digital communications complement each other, and one should not be seen as a replacement for the other.”

Such a common sense approach leads to the **WBS Toolbox**. Based on current use *and* future trends, WBS prepares a



WBS uses digital and printed communications together—such as using scanning and “the cloud” to exchange paper lesson answers.

variety of relevant tools. *You* decide what works. While meeting your own needs, be listening to students, too. *They* know what works for them. The great majority of the most receptive engage through paper—enrollments are set to exceed 1,000,000 this year. Costs are far less per teaching and conversion than most traditional missions. As measured by church budgets, our congregations tend to prioritize buildings and comforts (never mentioned by Jesus) and minimize reaching new people (commanded by Jesus). Today’s Great Commission gives a definite place for paper that shares the Gospel with literally millions.



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Teens for Christ

Joseph Pauley — BELLE, West Virginia

In Belle, the congregation's leadership in recent years has been discussing how to make lifelong disciples of our children, emphasizing the mission of sharing the Gospel. We are a congregation of about 85, and we have a wonderful group of teens. Besides encouraging participation in mission trips to Belize and Detroit, we are equipping and engaging them in the mission through World Bible School.

The idea germinated in my mind after participating in a DiscipleTrips mission to Belize last summer. Jeff Smith, the founding director of DiscipleTrips, required each one of us to enroll in World Bible School as students (even me, and I've been teaching online WBS for several years now). He also employed World Bible School as a follow-up tool. I thought that if they were using WBS on mission trips... why not do the same back home?

As of February, our high school and college students have taken over our postal program. They prepare the mailings and grade the lessons. It is a total team effort, with remarkable work night attendance. The group is led by high school senior, Brett Murray, who oversees the work nights and keeps the other students involved. They recently expanded from teaching only U.S. students to teaching international English-speaking students.

Of course, they are not without some help and oversight. One of our elders, Keith Briggs, and I are there to help with any difficult questions that might arise, as well as to order supplies and find suitable students.

Thanks again for all those who make World Bible School a reality!



Student workers: Abby Pauley, Brooke Murray, Brett Murray, Jaeden McComas, Meghan Wood and Madison Wood

Church Growth in Liberia

Ron Pottberg — DELTA, Colorado

Extended and brutal civil wars in Liberia wiped away much that had been accomplished in previous years, but a new beginning was on the horizon in 2004. So many had fled that most of the churches had disbanded. But some stayed and held onto buildings so as not to lose everything. By our count, less than 20 churches of Christ remained in the nation of Liberia by 2004. As the war subsided, refugees began to return and to look for a church to attend. That was also when we started going back into Liberia.

We knew that we needed a strategic approach, starting in Monrovia, the capitol city and then moving into the surrounding counties. A leadership team formed and looked at how best to move the work forward. This strategic team consisted of



Liberia WBS graduates

World Bible School played a key role in outreach and church planting over these

Isaac Daye, Maxwell Whea, Gabriel Chea, Arthur David and Alasis Goldore, all key ministers and leaders of the church in Liberia.

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A Scramble for WBS Lessons

Charles Agwata—KISII, Kenya

Moses Migiro and I visited a government high school in Kenya. I tell you there was a scramble for the hundreds of students who wanted to enroll. The principal, staff and workers were very excited about the occasion. Oh, how I wish I could get one picture when the students were mobbing the teaching staff handing out the intro lesson—*The Way to Life*. One student lost a sweater he was wearing in order to grab a single paper!

[To an American brother, Chad Garrett:] Come prepared to teach at such schools. Work as long as it is day, says the Lord—as long as our government has given the wide open door for introducing His word to them. The school principal asked a hard question, “Agwata, so you are the one who has stopped the entire school activities abruptly like this?” I don’t know where I got my answer, but I found myself saying, “No, it is God who has intervened through me and I know it is for the good of everybody here.” He replied, “Then do it quickly. I am told you want to spend 10 to 20 minutes?” I said, “Yes, yes, Mr. Principal.”

Brother Phil [Palmer], thank you so much for the pens and fliers I carried from you after that very successful meeting in Kericho. It made a great difference. The School principal today was very excited as he received a gift from Texas, “a pen labelled World Bible School.” They also wanted Bibles, but we had none. Moses and I have agreed to visit 20 high schools in this quarter, despite the great challenges of transportation. We need prayers for these.



Agwata at a Kenyan high school

An Old Friend



Over the last few months I have been reunited with an old friend. Though hard to admit, it was entirely my fault for letting the friendship dwindle. I'm not sure why I had neglected this friendship, probably just not putting enough effort into keeping in touch. Back in November, while on my way to Sunday morning Bible classes, I spotted him: my Bible. I had slowly replaced him with my electronic Bible which seemed faster, easier and lighter. I picked him up, remarking, "Hello, old friend, how have you been?" Though I heard no reply, I felt like God was nearby smiling at this reacquaintance.

It was nice to feel the Book again and to hear the paper swishing as the pages turned. I saw notes in the margin, the highlighted words and the underlines on passages that impressed over the years. I was reminded again of the power of God's Word on paper. Jesus reminds us, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:34). Praise the Lord for that promise!

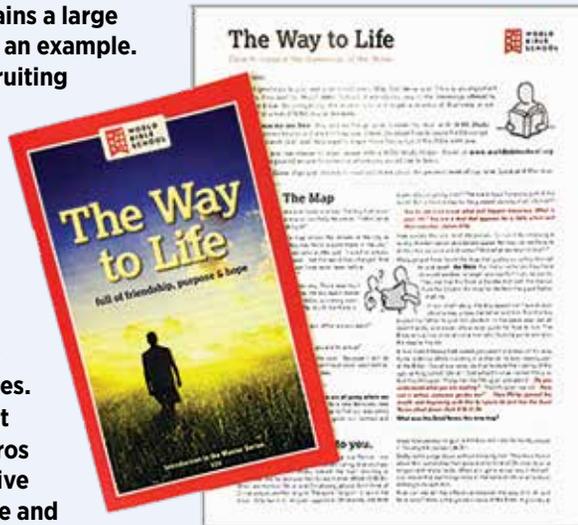
As more electronic media continues to be at our fingertips, I want to remind you all that WBS lessons are still in print and remain a large part of this outreach. Between individual church programs and the lessons distributed through the WBS office, over 1 million new Bible studies began in 2017! That is powerful use of paper!

Though courses and Bibles may be purchased, many others will become Incentive Bibles for deserving students. Production and communications involve significant overheads. Whether purchases or donations, every cent is about soul-winning. These life-saving lessons reach the hands of eager students. Make a gift today and help spread the Word. And while you *can* make a donation online, we also accept a good old-fashioned paper check. There still is power in paper.



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

Pat reminds us that "print remains a large part of this outreach." Here is an example. **World Bible School's student recruiting drives use Introduction Lessons (Intros) of two kinds. The colorful "complete Intro"—*The Way to Life*—is 20 pages. On the field, we also print similar "short Intros" that use less paper. Ron Pottberg reports that in 2016 we printed **175,000** short Intros and **75,000** complete Intros for seven countries. In 2017 we printed **250,000** short Intros and **310,000** complete Intros for nine countries. These Intros give students an immediate start. More and more, their answers are scanned for faster interaction with American Study Helpers. Your generous support shares Jesus with literally hundreds of thousands of new learners! Thank you!**





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 Lessons: 877.393.0211 · info@worldbibleschool.net
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I want to give **this amount now:**
 \$ _____

Please use this gift:

- where most needed
- for Incentive Bibles

I want to make a commitment by joining **Sowing the Seed**.

I'll give this amount **Monthly:**

- \$30/mo
- \$60/mo
- \$100/mo
- \$____/mo

I'll give this amount **Annually:**

- \$300/yr
- \$600/yr
- \$1,000/yr
- \$____/yr

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph _____ (day) _____ (night)

E-mail _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a WBS teacher or I have been sometime in the past.

Please charge my **credit card** for the amount at left.

- Visa Discover MasterCard
- Amex Other _____

(You can give securely online: worldbibleschool.net/give)

Card No: _____

Expiration: _____ / _____

Name (as on card) _____

Signature: _____

I'm setting up **Automatic Bill Pay** from my bank.

My gift is a **Tribute**. See the back of this form.

Tell me more about: will planning
 income-producing gift options

- I am } including WBS in my will
- I am considering } or other estate plans.

In Honor of...

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- Danielle Bowman**
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- Mark Castleberry**
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- Norvel & Helen Young**
Judy Thomson

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Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts

are ideal ways to pay tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to "share Jesus" with WBS.

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

- HONOR GIFT** Birthday Anniversary
 Illness Friendship Other _____

MEMORIAL GIFT

For:

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____
City _____ ST _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Their Relationship to Honoree _____

Love Notes

Royce Vickery: I am writing to honor two very fine Christian friends of mine.



At 90 they are still the backbone and glue that holds the Lockhart church of Christ together, where Hugo has been an elder. They have about given up driving but never miss a service. They both have been WBS

teachers with hundreds of students. Both taught Bible classes for years, including four decades at the African-American congregation at Green Hill. The world needs more people like Hugo and Lenora Hemme.

Virginia Nix: You may remember Wayne Sharp. He and my sister Mary moved to South Dakota. Wayne has been involved in a prison ministry for several months. He and other preachers go to hold worship services for the inmates. While doing this, Wayne has become acquainted with several inmates. He gave World Bible School lessons to those who wanted them. In December Wayne baptized eight men into Christ. Isn't it wonderful when we see God's word touching hearts!

Wayne Sharp: Greetings from South Dakota. We have wonderful memories of our work with you while we were in Cedar Park and with the Leander congregation. I have told our members about the wonderful work WBS does all over the world, and they wanted to send you this contribution. May the Lord continue to bless you in your work and in ours here in Yankton.



Sherri Hays: wbs students

If you've called WBS for student names or to request follow-up for a student, then you've likely talked to Sherri Hays. Just when one job was closing down, God opened the door as WBS advertised for an opening. Sherri's preacher recognized the job description as perfect for her and encouraged her. She applied and now 13 years later Sherri is more passionate than ever about her mission. Sherri handles all postal student names that come through the Cedar Park office and passes them on to congregations and individuals that request students. Each year the task of organizing and tracking each name gets bigger. Over the last seven years the postal number has gone up 132%. Last year, Sherri processed over 991,000 postal names. She already anticipates over one million new names this year. Sherri stays in contact with WBS student recruiters worldwide and with those who provide follow-up for responsive students.



"Dropbox" is a digital file hosting service that is revolutionizing Sherri's job and reducing dependence on traditional mail. This new method is proving to be a faster and less expensive way of receiving student names and lessons for grading by study helpers. The rapid exchange—now available in 11 countries—improves retention by eliminating long postal delays. (See more about Scanning and Dropbox in the next issue of *Action!*)

Sherri and Keith, her husband of 32 years, are "cow and horse people" and enjoy country life. They have two children, Cody and Samantha. Sherri loves being a wonderful "Nannaa" (Grandma) to three grandkids, ages four to ten. After family, her other focus is WBS teaching of her own, having taught over 5,000 postal students, often speeded by email interactions.

Debbie Patek: wbs orders



If you call WBS to place an order in August, be sure to wish Debbie Patek happy anniversaries! In August, Debbie will celebrate two anniversaries: a 38th wedding anniversary with husband Tony, and her first anniversary working at WBS. Debbie and Tony are proud parents to four children and have had the unique privilege of having raised triplets. (Since the triplets came along, Debbie is now more specific in her prayers and careful with requests for patience.) Family is a big part of Debbie's life. They now care for Tony's 95 year old mother at home. Their oldest daughter, Dana, is now married and the triplets, Nick, Chris and Amanda, have headed off to college.

Debbie came to WBS after having worked in the local school district office and is happy to be in a work environment that is more in tune with her values. Her training as a mom has equipped her to handle just about anything. Debbie's main responsibility and concern is serving those who place orders for WBS materials and Bibles. She has taken on additional responsibility of the shipping department this year while co-worker James Brock is recovering from knee surgeries. Now Debbie not only takes the orders, but she also fulfills the orders in the warehouse, often the same day.

Church Growth in Liberia—from page 2

next 14 years. Teams on the ground used WBS as the tool for recruiting students to study God's word throughout the regions. They also established the WBS office in downtown Monrovia which became a study center for students to come and learn. This led to "WBS Graduations" and tens of thousands have thus studied through the WBS courses over these years and come to faith.

As a result, by the end of 2017, there are now over 155 congregations established across Liberia. The church is growing and reaching out into all the regions of the country once again. This was not the labor of just a few, but with a leadership team working strategically, the Gospel is being preached and the Lord is giving the increase. We now have five schools of preaching in the country to meet the needs of these new churches, as well as a Radio Station and a Gospel Chariot helping with outreach. Already in 2018, in just three months, six new congregations have been established. May God continue to give the increase and to bless the country of Liberia!

WBS Study Helpers: Thank you for sharing Jesus with World Bible School! If you are looking for additional printed study materials to provide your students, below are some proven sources (with three highlighted in this issue).



J.C. Choate Publications

Through the Bible, God chose the written word as His enduring tool for reaching the world with His message. In our six decades of mission work (including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Myanmar, Viet Nam and teaching throughout numerous additional nations), through monthly magazines, Bible courses (in conjunction with WBS), and books, we have augmented



the effects of radio and television programs in the major languages of India. Hundreds of congregations have been established and hundreds of thousands of souls have been saved. Our quarterly magazine, *The Voice of Truth International*, is shared with brethren throughout the world, and is printed in bulk in India, Nigeria, and Ghana. Here in the States more than 200 books written by faithful brethren, and 120 pocket-sized, tri-fold, full-color tracts are featured in our catalog. Each year, thousands are shared free of charge with brethren overseas. We are so thankful to be tools in God's work of evangelizing the world. For personal contact: choate@worldevangelism.org.

worldevangelism.org

Heart to Heart

Heart to Heart Publishing began printing tracts c. 2001. We were using brotherhood tracts but churches said, "These look like they were printed in 1960." So we updated the look while maintaining sound doctrine. The results were phenomenal. There are now 468 titles (including Spanish) and over 3,000,000 in circulation. These cover doctrine—*Baptism, What Must I*



Do to Be Saved? and *Is the Church Jesus Established on Earth Today?*—but also things like *What Would Jesus Do if President?*, *Second-time Around Dating*, and *What to Expect When You Visit the church of Christ*.

gladtidingspublishing.com

Mission Printing

Mission Printing, based in Arlington, TX, was founded in 1979 by Guy and Jessie Lee Caskey for "World Evangelism by the Printed Page." Three million tracts are printed annually and sent free to foreign evangelists, mainly by sea containers. Shown here is a container of 1,400 boxes for South Africa in March 2018, the 27th container shipped to the mission field



since 2009. These loaders are part of a large volunteer workforce from over 30 congregations that have workstations in their facilities to collate and staple printed materials. We print WBS contact information on the back of every tract. For personal contact: Richard Renfro at missionprinting@gmail.com.

missionprinting.us

 gospeladvocate.com

Gospel Tracts International
gospeltractsinternational.com

Haun Publications
P.O. Box 3426, Pasadena, TX 77501

Hawley Publications
hawleypublications.com

Hurt Publications
hurtpublications.com

 heraldoftruth.org

International Bible Correspondence School
ibcschool.ca

My Bible Courses
mybiblecourses.com

 starbible.com

Prison Ministry Continuing Studies


extensionschool.com/books

 biblecourses.com

 nlbm.org

 nlbi.net

Cooperation for South Sudan

Phil Palmer — ABILENE, Texas

Ann Argo, a World English Institute teacher, heard from her South Sudanese student Atem Biar that he wanted to be baptized. Atem is married with four young children. Ann contacted Don Humphrey of Mt. Juliet, TN, whose congregation sponsors The Sudan Project. Don contacted Bill Colwell, who contacted me. I emailed Mai Patrick, the WBS coordinator for Juba, to ask him to follow up with Atem. After four days, we got this report:



Dear brother Phil, I am very happy to say Atem has finally given his life to Christ through baptism this morning in the River Nile. Once again glory be to God for His wonderful grace! God bless! Mai.

Here is Ann's response: *Dear brother Palmer, Words cannot express my joy and my gratitude to you and to Mai. I literally am weeping tears of joy.... Please tell Mai that I am beyond grateful, and that he and the church in Juba will be in my prayers. Today a minister, an elder and three others prayed for him and for Atem.*

This is the way it is supposed to work—from baptism request to new birth in Christ in one week!



Evaresto, Atem and Mai after Atem's baptism in the Nile

The Power of Print: Nigeria

Sylvester A. Imogoh — IGARRA, Nigeria

God has left the details of *how* to obey the Great Commission for us to determine, depending on our situations. The Gospel can be preached in several formats. But the printed page seems to have an edge over many methods. It is relatively cheap for the impact, a *silent missionary* that out-lives and out-travels the author. Like Abel (Hebrews 11:4), authors still “speak” after they are long dead. The invention of the printing press may be one single act of God's providence to ensure the Gospel continues for future generations!

WBS courses have reached innumerable persons worldwide, with many conversions and new congregations. I am one example, having received the Gospel through WBS. I was baptized in 1979 and continue to be an active preacher and missionary. In our county alone, we now have 47 congregations, and many more in adjoining counties. All these resulted from the “seed” sown when WBS courses reached three teenage boys—I was one—in my village. We often notice that converts who come through WBS are more mature. One reason is that they are self-motivated for personal Bible study.

Our Tracts and Books Ministry has gone a long way toward evangelizing Nigeria. Four million copies of nearly 200 tracts have been put to work. Over 40,000 books have been printed and reprinted in the past five years. When I travel, I can teach 100 prospects the lesson on “How To Become A Christian.” But I have now written a tract with the same message. The initial 5,000 copies has been reprinted many times over, teaching across Nigeria simultaneously! Others make copies themselves—an endless impact, even after my passing.



Sylvester, Sandra and son

French Resources

The French-speaking world includes nearly 40 countries and territories. The leading source for printed materials is the French literature ministry of the Crieve Hall church of Christ in Nashville, TN, directed by Barry Baggott and called either *Éditions CEB* or *French World Outreach*. FWO distributed 275,000 pieces in French in 2017. The website frenchworldoutreach.org offers a catalog of almost all the French materials available. Barry also produces a bimonthly periodical, *Chemin de Vérité*, with a circulation of more than 18,000 (chemindevérité.com).

Barry and co-worker Garrett McGilvray also worked closely with World Bible School in creating the French platform of the WBS website. They are responsible for recruiting teachers, support, facilitating follow-up and other matters. They may be reached at fwo.ceb@gmail.com.

Other resources include biblecourses.com/French/AllLessons produced by Eddie Cloer; etude-biblique.com produced by Justin Smith; ressources-bibliques.com produced by Doyle Kee. Doyle has produced a CD with hundreds of resources.



Barry and Garrett

The successful exchange of the WBS lesson and the graded lesson between students and teachers is an ongoing challenge. The WBS Postal Program Guide highlights the best practices for Coordinators and Study Helpers for consistent results. Find the Guide at worldbibleschool.net/resources.



WBS POSTAL PROGRAM GUIDE

Editor's Note: *This Action! focuses on printed tools. Today, however, we would be foolish to separate media that complement each other. In this story friends use a variety of tools: a card, texting, Internet, Facebook and printed World Bible School courses. In the next issue of Action! we'll further explore power tools that speed the Gospel worldwide.*



You. Sharing Jesus.

POSTMASTER:

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

Just a Little Card

Pete and Mandi Shaw

Do you really believe God works in your life—daily? We do, absolutely. Last Wednesday night, friends had invited a young doctor Todd, and his lovely wife Joli to the “Summer Series” Bible lectures. We [Pete and Mandi] introduced ourselves to Todd and Joli. They told us of their work on the Mercy Ship that docks at ports along the African coast and gives medical help. Todd is an anesthesiologist and Joli assists him.



We told them about our World Bible School work with Africa. It was a wonderful conversation. Unbeknownst to Joli, Pete gave Todd our WBS card—that little card with our contact information that we try to hand out as often as possible.

A few days later, over dinner, Joli was telling Todd about Djeneba, a dear friend from the last trip who wants to learn and share more of the Bible. Todd looked at her and pulled out that “little card” from Pete. Here was just the right connection for Djeneba!



Not wasting any time, Joli took a picture of that “little card” and messaged it to

Djeneba who, in turn, got on the WBS website and took the first lesson. She made 95%, and she was ecstatic.

So Joli called and gave us the information. She kept saying, “How funny it was” that all this happened. We agreed that God was working in all this, and it wasn’t just a coincidence. Mandi immediately friended both of them on Facebook, and Djeneba answered soon afterward. They have talked back and forth several times, and we are now sending her WBS course materials.

What a wonderful experience, a gift from the Holy Spirit! Djeneba revealed that she born in a Muslim family but now follows Jesus. She said, “I want to deepen my knowledge of Jesus to be able to serve Him fully and want guidance to find where to start. This is the thirst I have. I am more than grateful our God does wonders.” Amen, Djeneba!

**“I want to deepen my knowledge of Jesus!”
And it all came from just a little card.**

And it all came from “just a little card.”

With **WBS/CONNECT**, you can share Jesus anywhere you choose. Students who enroll are available **only to you to teach**. Use Traditional tools (such as the card illustrated at left) customized with your own, unique Connect Web Address. Also use WBS’ Web Ads online advertising tools. Learn more at worldbibleschool.net/connect or contact us.

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