

KINDNESS KITS AND A TELEPHONE BOOK

John Carney, Pueblo West Colorado

A few years ago, Kathy and John Presskorn, at the Church of Christ in Lakewood Colorado, began handing out “Kindness Kits” to the homeless. Later, some WBS teachers began including “The Way to Life” in the kits, as a way to plant Gospel seeds into the hearts of people who may not know Jesus.

When Inez and I moved to Pueblo West, we continued to distribute these kits to the homeless. The church at Pueblo West decided to distribute 70 kits at a city-wide meeting of churches in Pueblo in a city park. They distributed the 70 kits, and scraped together more to meet the huge demand. Each Kindness Kit included: a gallon Ziploc bag, a bottle of water, a chicken salad and tuna salad, a small applesauce, a toothbrush & toothpaste, two hand wipes, a pair of socks, a WBS Intro lesson, and a note stating “Here’s something to get you through the day, and something to get you through eternity.”



Inez and I decided to take this idea to the next level and mail the Introduction lesson to everyone in the Pueblo West telephone book. We began mailing out the first batch a few weeks ago (Summer 2016). May our Lord and God open the hearts of those to whom they are sent.

(John & Inez are in their 80s, and have been WBS Study helpers since 1983!)

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH WBS?

by Bob Ledford

About three years ago, one of our sister congregations called our preacher and offered us all the material they had on hand from a previous mission work that had included World Bible School. The brethren who were in charge of that work were no longer able to keep it going due to age and the passing of their coordinator. Our preacher asked my wife and me if we could use it in our WBS work. Being the pack rats that we are, and all this material being offered for free, we got in the church van and drove over. It was hard to imagine such a treasure

trove. There was WBS material, home Bible studies, books authored by some of the best minds in the brotherhood and all kinds of teaching aids. We loaded up enough to fill several shelves in our WBS workroom at the church building. We offered the material to our church members and displayed some of it in the foyer. Even then, we still had shelves full, so an old axiom came to mind, "You don't go fishing in a fish bowl."

Most of the towns in our part of the state have some kind of festival each year. My wife and I had attended a few of these and observed all kinds of vendors selling their products out of booths in rented spaces. Some denominational churches also rented these spaces and gave out bottled water and other material. Then the thought came to me, "WE HAVE WATER! WE HAVE LIVING WATER!!!" So, we began calling city halls and chambers of commerce, inquiring about obtaining a vendors permit and renting spaces at these city festivals. We were going to give away WBS materials and free Bibles. We had home Bible studies and free CDs and DVDs from WVBS. Almost every town waived the vendor fees because we represented a religious entity and were not selling, but giving away free materials.

We have just finished our second year, making the festival rounds, with our WBS booth. It has been both rewarding and fruitful. This approach doesn't intrude into anyone's personal space and no one asks you to leave because you're bothering them at their home. In fact, the interest has been amazing! People are very receptive and they can't believe it's free! Many ask, "Who are you people?" We tell them, "We are from World Bible School, funded by members/congregations of the churches of Christ."

Now, our WBS shelves are almost empty, but we intend to re-supply during the cold winter months. Our elders have been very generous in helping with that. We would highly recommend this vendors approach to anyone who doesn't mind a long day in both good weather and bad. At the end of day, the reward has been heavenly for this pair of, soon to be, 75 year olds!

(Bob and Marilyn Ledford worship with the Hamilton Church of Christ in Hamilton, Alabama, where Bob serves as a deacon and WBS coordinator.)

WBS GOES TO THE Y

By Barry Poyner, Elder | Kirksville MO Church of Christ

Our congregation recently rediscovered WBS when we had a Mission Emphasis Sunday and invited Bill Colwell to speak. All monies contributed on this day went to world evangelism. We discovered the exciting possibilities with internet teaching, enrolled in WBS Connect, and signed up 9 members as teachers. We also distributed WBS lessons to area prisoners.

Then we discovered the WBS Children's Series booklets designed for children ages 8-12. We had recently been contacted by our local YMCA about helping them, and we heard the Macedonian call! They were going to have a fair, so we signed up to have a booth, and had Bible Quiz games there. We then asked if we could help in some way with after-school programs. The Summer program was already planned, but they offered us 3 consecutive Thursday afternoon sessions in May. We gladly accepted.

What fun it was to see 16 young children, jumping, skipping, and hopping from the adjacent school. They had high energy, and we knew we needed to be interactive. We decided to use the 3 WBS children's booklets, highlighting one lesson each session and giving each child a booklet to take home each time. In our first session we focused on lesson one about the creation, emphasizing that we are made in the image of God. When we talked about creation, we gave each child a packet of seeds with the church business card stapled to it. We taste tested various apples slices, and had a prayer before the snack. We encouraged them to complete the enclosed quiz sheet and return it the next week to be eligible for a prize drawing.

Our goal in this outreach was to make new friends, to acquaint others with the church, and to organize a short-term outreach effort. You can do the same! Have questions? Contact Barry at bpoyner@truman.edu or 660-665-8133

Main in Motion

By Cammy Hall, World Bible School

During the summer, the city of Montrose, Colorado has a weekly street fair called "Main in Motion". During this event the city shuts down a section of Main Street

to vehicular traffic. Commercial vendors, clubs, and individuals set up booths on the street offering music, food, games, etc.



This past summer the Montrose Church of Christ sponsored a booth at the fair. Each Thursday evening they offered games or face painting for children while other members visited with parents and other adults in the crowd. They handed out free ice water and brochures for the church and offered the opportunity to study with World Bible School.

The Montrose church has reached out to many people in the community and has begun conversations about the Bible. Deb Dirks, one of the members told me “It’s a gentle way to reach people. It is also highly appreciated when we can just offer it, tell them it is available online or by mail and let them know that there’s no cost. People react much more positively when I reiterate that it’s online and we don’t come to their house.”

“Main in Motion” is one more example of a church finding a creative way to share God’s word. How can you use WBS to reach out to your community?