

# THE INSPIRED TOOL!



**W**hat is the secret ingredient in the WBS recipe? What makes it taste so good to over a million current participants? How does it win thousands to Christ each year?

We don't protect our "secret ingredient" behind locked vaults and legal patents. Instead, we honor it as central in our name and mission: World Bible School. Our courses display the Bible's words in red. In each lesson, our editorial (uninspired) wording points to Scripture's inspired wording—which in turn points to Jesus.

Here is an introductory sample from *The Way to Life*:

*Here is the greatest value of the Bible:*

*It describes the Way from the beginning.... From this original record we can know the true Jesus.*

*We can learn the Christianity that Jesus created and continues.*

*The key is the Bible. That is why we invite you into the Bible experience. In these Bible courses, all graded questions come from the Scriptures*

*themselves. The Word of God is the pure source—the unique, reliable and respected record of Jesus and His Way.*

God invests His Word with divine



power that attracts, convicts, gives life and empowers change. Jesus declared, **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life (John 6:63)**. He knew that **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4)**.

Respect for "every word" leads us to pay attention to careful translation. That is exemplified by the English Standard Version of *The Bible: World Bible School Study Edition*. This edition went public in

the January 2017 issue of *Action!*

Bible sales and distribution jumped from the typical 4,000 each year to over 62,000 in 2017. There are good reasons for such unprecedented popularity. At \$5 apiece (plus shipping), you can check out

this amazing edition for yourself. Bulk orders reduce the price, making it available for your congregation, your youth, your benevolence and your outreach. "All Scripture"—as preserved in the Bible—is God's inspired tool!



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# Ghana PREP Operating Again

*We Need Teachers!*

## Two Days Wages

Jerry Morton — WORLAND, Wyoming

**M**alawi is a very poor country. We used a mobile school because the main transportation is by foot. Over 700 Christians came to hear us teach from the Gospel of John. At one location a 65-year-old man arrived for the 9AM class, having biked 30 miles. At another place, another elderly brother rode from another country. These were not bikes my children would ride.



On this trip, chiChewa Bibles were available for distribution, thanks to a donor in Tennessee. The last such opportunity had been four years before. Each day, we loaded boxes of Bibles, song books and tracts into the vehicle. A Bible and a song book cost nine days wages at the Bible Society bookstore in Lilongwe. Isaac Banda, our translator and brother, convinced the new missionary that the people needed to invest in the Bibles they received. After hours of teaching, Isaac announced that Bibles were available. They all cheered! Then Isaac told them the actual cost—nine days wages. They all sighed. Then Isaac told the cost to them—two days wages for the two books. The whole crowd cheered again!

### What happened next amazed me each day.

What happened next amazed me each day. Almost every person got in line and, bowing in gratitude, purchased a Bible and a song book. It was humbling to see the value that my Malawian brothers and sisters placed on God's Word.



Augustine (in blue) and Ron at Ghanaian School

**R**on Pottberg, our Envoy for International Relations, and Brian Davis, our Executive Vice President, recently returned from Accra, Ghana, where they evaluated our two-year pilot PREP—Partners in Religious Education Program. In conjunction with Willie Gley (WBS coordinator), Augustine Tawiah (church leader and member of Ghana's National Parliament), and Charles Odoi (PREP coordinator), Ron and Brian are glad to report that Ghana PREP is moving forward with a new strategy. To those who taught in this pilot period—*thank you!* Improvements learned were valuable. The old strategy was based

on an opportunity for a formal agreement with Ghana's education ministry. That arrangement stalled in the final stages of application. This only means that we engage high schools informally rather than "officially". The doors are still open!

The new P.R.E.P. strategy revolves around three methodological changes:

1. Let students study at their own pace.
2. Distribute one lesson at a time via a school-based coordinator who is a member of the churches of Christ.
3. Billing will be based on each lesson used rather than on each student enrolled.

Now, we need teachers and congregations to teach these students. Currently, we have over 1,700 students waiting for teachers! Wow, what a wonderful opportunity... especially as the benefits of Ghana PREP are still alive and well:

1. Rapid lesson turn-around via scanning (days vs. months)
2. Higher retention rates through the entire Master series (Some cases show 74% retention!)
3. Significant cost reduction. (Compare the \$7.00 cost of a PREP student going through the entire Master Series versus the cost of mailing the entire Master Series to a student. Ask about pre-positioned Bibles.)

Will you share Jesus with these eager students in PREP schools? Call us at 800-311-2006 for more details.



A proud graduate of PREP



## Scriptures for Angola

Nathan Holland — WINDHOEK, Namibia

**During my recent visit to Angola, I got to help Danny Reese put together the very first 25 copies of the Gospel of Luke in the Nyaneka language. Some friends have been working hard to translate the Bible into this language. Our little printing ministry was able to step in and help them to print this book as well as some hymn books. Please join us in praying for those who will soon be able to read one of the Gospel accounts in Nyaneka for the first time.**

**GOD'S WORD...** created, gives life, saves, cleanses, converts,

# Being a Child Again



The temperatures are climbing and the trees and flowers are almost at their peak. Most schools will be taking their hiatus, accompanied by the sights and sounds of children on summer vacation. I remember the excitement of the last day of school and knowing I had a few months with no classes and no textbooks! The pure joy of youth, though not fully appreciated until adulthood, makes us all at one time or another long for days gone by. What if you could recapture those feelings again? Spiritually speaking, we can...and we must.

In Matthew 18, the disciples were again seeking to “become the greatest in the kingdom.” As always, Jesus’ answer was simple yet challenging: *“Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven”* (Matthew 18: 3).

Many of us miss that little phrase *“unless you turn.”* God knows we are so focused on our lives and our adult ways, we have taken a path away from Him. We lean on our own understanding. We have forgotten to be His children.

World Bible School seeks to place God the Father’s message into the hands of millions

around the world. In one sense, we have the task of helping to create children again. The Bible has the power to “turn” us from striving to be the greatest adults to being children in a right relationship with their Father.

This month, can you share with WBS financially in order to reach more who need to find that Father/child relationship through His word? From purchasing Bibles for \$5 to making a financial gift toward Incentive Bibles (page 6), you are helping to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission. It’s time for us all to be a child again. Can you help? WBS is You. Sharing Jesus. Advance His mission by mail or online at [worldbibleschool.net/give](http://worldbibleschool.net/give).

Pat Brown is always available to talk to friends of WBS—individuals and churches. Contact him at [pat@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:pat@worldbibleschool.net).

## Dream with Us

The Bible: World Bible School Study Edition is already a phenomenon. Since we first publicized this ESV Bible in January 2017, over 100,000 have been printed, and strong demand continues. Through the Incentive Bible program, WBS gives Bibles to proven seekers. Even with over a million current students, we plan—by faith—to fulfill the Incentive promise to as many as qualify (page 6). But why restrict the vision to horizons we can see? God leads us—He has no such limits. In recent strategy meetings, WBS leadership is exploring even greater dreams. Please be praying and dreaming with us. With God, all things are possible!



WBS leaders meet.



Editor: John Reese

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instructs, restores, nourishes, guides, guards, encourages.



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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.

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# Namwianga, Zambia Reunion

Certain names stand out in the history of churches of Christ in Zambia, formerly Northern Rhodesia. The first restoration missionaries to Zambia were Peter Masiya from 1912 and Jack M'zirwa from 1916. Peter was a native of Portuguese East Africa, now Mozambique (see his story below). The first mission stations were at Sinde, Kabanga, Namwianga and Eureka.

Early U.S. missionaries included the Shorts, Lawyers, Merritts, Scotts, Browns, Reeses, Rowes, Hobbys, Shewmakers and Brittells. Most of these family names were represented at a recent gathering at Harding University, which partners with Namwianga.

The reunion, organized by Loreta Brittell Peikin and Lola Brittell Berryhill, celebrated God's work in Zambia and Namwianga, and honored



**Namwiangans praise God.**

the workers, especially Roy Merritt whose service at Namwianga spans 50 years (1968-2018).

Roy and Kathi have focused on education, orphan and youth care, and evangelism. The latter includes Bible correspondence and church planting campaigns—NorthReach and WestReach—into under-served regions of Zambia. Their son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Cintia Kumalo, share in the care work, and will carry more of the load into the future.

Roy's sister, Iris Elder (age 96), was present. She arrived in Africa in July 1926 and was instrumental in translating the Bible into the chiTonga language of Southern Zambia.



**Kathi and Roy Merritt**

# Missions Pioneers

John Hanson is the Missions Coordinator at the Baker Heights congregation in Abilene. That church has long-supported missions, including in Zambia, and WBS. John reports here that long-time missionaries (and the parents of his wife, Donna) Joe and Ruth Betts, both passed away in March of this year.

*Ruth died March 20th at the age of 86. Ironically, March 20th, 1956 was the day they arrived in Tokyo harbor to start their 50 years of mission work. We don't think these two dates are a coincidence. Joe died March 31st. He initially went into the hospital for some treatment. Ruth died while he was in the hospital. The doctor said there really wasn't a medical reason why he died. We think he just couldn't go on without her. Two great pioneers in God's kingdom have gone on to the Lord.*



**Ruth and Joe Betts**

# Restoration Roots in Zambia

Roy Merritt—KALOMO, Zambia



*The Sherriff family had been involved in the Restoration Movement—seeking to return to the Bible's Christianity—in Great Britain. They helped carry the movement to John*

*Sherriff's 1864 birthplace, New Zealand. Later John joined the gold rush in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 1898 he moved to Bulawayo in what is now Zimbabwe, and opened stone works that employed workers in transit to the South African gold mines. At this point, Roy Merritt picks up the story....*

One night, Sherriff saw a fire in one of the laborer's huts. Concerned that the fire might spread, he rushed across to the workers' compound. Drawing aside the blanket across the hut's door, he noticed that the laborer was looking at a scrap of paper in the light of a candle. "What's that?" Sherriff asked. The man

said, "I don't know. I just saw it blowing in the street this morning." He handed it up to Sherriff.

When Sherriff saw it was a page out of the New Testament, it was as if God had struck him with lightning: "I didn't send you to Africa to get rich. I sent you to Africa to preach the Gospel to the people." Then Sherriff realized, "I've got people here from Zambia, from Malawi, and from all over this country. There's where we're going to get started."

So he started teaching his workers how to read, how to understand the Bible and how to preach. Then he started sending them back to their homes, saying, "Don't go on down to Johannesburg. Go back and take the Gospel to your people."

Restoration churches today that exist in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe have their roots in that singular event. The first missionary that went to Zambia was Peter Masiya. He started the first church in Mukuni Village near Victoria Falls. Later he moved to Mujala near what is known today as Sinde Mission.

John Sherriff had heard that there was a

restoration movement taking place in the United States. He came over here and visited some of our early Christian schools. The first recruits were W.N. and A'Delia Short. They went to Africa in 1921 and worked with Sherriff for two years. Then they moved up to join Peter Masiya to open Sinde Mission there. My father and his wife Alice went there in 1926.

John Sherriff passed away in 1935, but his influence continues with some 3,000 churches of Christ in Zambia, and many thousands in Malawi and Zimbabwe.



**John and Emma Sherriff**

to faith, reveals Christ, warns, judges, makes complete.



## Bibles for Chaplains

WBS Buck Griffith, President of NewLife Behavior Ministries (NLB), came by the WBS offices for a large order of WBS Bibles—some **2,000!**— for prisons and jails. He and his co-workers loaded up two vehicles. NLB assists individuals in behavioral improvement with the hope of reconciling individuals to God, families and society.



Buck's desire is to get the WBS Bible into the hands of every prisoner who will accept it. An NLB pamphlet will accompany each Bible and be made available to all prison/jail chaplains to distribute. Initially, WBS Bibles will become available to chaplains in Texas, with the goal to eventually make them available to chaplains nationally.



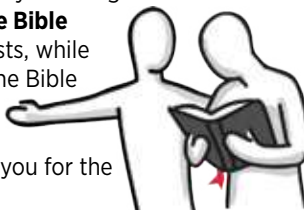
Top: Buck Griffith and Bob Wachtel  
Bottom: Maggie Wachtel, Ronnie Edgar and Buck, with WBS' Debbie Patek

# WBS TOOLS INCENTIVE BIBLES LEAD MORE TO KNOW JESUS!

Using a **FREE** WBS Study Edition Bible to teach more effectively.

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas

**H**ave you ever sent a Bible to a WBS student? If so, you probably know the pure joy your thoughtful investment provided. Hopefully, the cost for purchasing and shipping the Bible has not been more than your budget would allow. But if it has, the **WBS Free Bible Incentive program** can lower costs, while encouraging students to study the Bible deeper into the Master Series. WBS will provide the Bible free of charge, while partnering with you for the shipping cost. It works like this:



1. You tell your new WBS postal or online students that if they successfully complete all WBS courses through *Born of Water and Spirit*, you will send them a Bible. This gives them a powerful incentive to continue their studies.
2. When they complete the *Born of Water and Spirit* quiz (with a score of at least 70%), you order a Bible for them at [worldbibleschool.net/incentive](http://worldbibleschool.net/incentive).
3. WBS will ship your student a new WBS Bible. (Remember that you must first ask your online students for their mailing address.)
4. WBS will bill you or your congregation only for the cost of shipping (approximately \$9 for international addresses, and \$3.50 for U.S. addresses).

Take advantage of the WBS Free Bible Incentive program to bless your WBS postal and online students.

[worldbibleschool.net/incentive](http://worldbibleschool.net/incentive)



**About Grading Keys...** Over time we have made improvements to the Return Pages. The biggest change by far was reducing 100 multiple choice questions down to 50 in early 2014. This was to take full advantage of scanning, which greatly speeds returns and helps students continue their studies longer. This, of course, required new Grading Keys. It's good to keep your old 100 question Keys around for the rare occasion when an old Return Pages trickles in.

19.	●		Acts 17:2-3
20.	●		Matt 8:26-27
21.	●		Matt 13:32

Where course content has changed—for example, in moving to the English Standard Version—the Grading Keys' dot pattern has remained the same. **It's best to make sure you are using current Grading Keys** with the date "rev. 2/19/2018" on page 1. (By the way, each WBS lesson has a version date on the inside front cover, e.g. "July, 2017".) Current Grading Keys may be downloaded at [worldbibleschool.net/resources](http://worldbibleschool.net/resources). If you experience problems with Grading Keys, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:info@worldbibleschool.net).

**GOD'S WORD is...** truth, seed, hammer, sword, fire, rain, lamp,

# Love Notes

**Glenn Gannon:** I have adopted this student, Johanny [who completed] The Way. She replied, "I have been searching for a Bible study that will feed me spiritually and there was none until now. My family is too much of the world. I have been brought down to despair and that is where I found Him waiting for me. I am a broken vessel that my Lord is putting back together. I really enjoy the lessons so far. It feels so good to have someone who can teach me how to actually read the Bible. I really look forward to studying more about Jesus and getting to know Him and you as we go."

**James Meeker:** [As one who is already a Christian] I'm really enjoying the studies. These lessons from WBS are easily the best I've ever seen or studied. Your positive attitude, friendly style and encouragement shine brightly through every series. Your love of the Lord and His word are joyful and obvious. Thank you for this refresher for me from the well that truly never runs dry!

**Omphile Medupe:** I'm really thankful for these studies because they help me to study my Bible. As the book of Colossians says, we must increase in knowledge of God. This is happening in my life by the help of World Bible School lessons. May God richly bless you.



**Makinde Olufemi:** Our WBS follow up workers were winding down their activity before the schools in Nigeria closed for this term on April 6. We shall be printing another 10,000 Introduction Lessons for the recruitment of correspondence students in April 2018, Lord willing.

## The All-Sufficient Word leads to dangerous baptisms

**Sylvester Imogoh**—IGARRA, Nigeria

**H**uge numbers study the Bible through the World Bible School program in Uneme-Nekhwa. ALL the students at the local school are enrolled with teachers at Westside church of Christ in Norman, OK. We planned a WBS seminar, and Doug Wheeler emailed me follow-up requests.

As before, I invited Augustus Ogidan to be with us. This way, when we make converts, he assists such new Christians to attend the local congregation. Mr. Akinyemi, a teacher at the school, helps me to coordinate the WBS ministry in the school. He is a good man, but has yet to be baptized into Christ. He arranged the day's activity in the school compound. I spoke on the "All-Sufficiency of The Word of God." The audience gave rapt attention and there were many questions. We distributed plenty of tracts.



**Sylvester (in red) with work motorbike**

The river for baptism is along the Okpe road, a route of the notorious Muslim Fulani that have been terrorizing regions of Nigeria. They are ruthless and heartless, maiming, raping and killing. We had to summon courage to go and baptize in the water on that road. God saw to it that nothing bad happened to us. We rejoiced for our physical salvation and for the salvation of the soul!

We conducted another seminar at the Success Secondary School in Igarra. WBS students there are taught from Norman, OK, and Kingsland, TX. A Christian brother is a teacher at SSS and helps to coordinate its WBS program. [Sylvester's report includes details about WBS student responses and their U.S. teachers.]

*All of us must be grateful to God who allows us to play a little part in His scheme of redemption. It is a wonderful privilege to take the saving message of Christ to others. Some of my age mates in my village are still wallowing in ignorance of fetish, pagan and hopeless sacrifices. The liberty we have in Christ is worthy of appreciation and celebration. To me, there is no greater way to do this than in helping to teach others The Way. To all involved in the WBS ministry, we say THANK YOU for your hard work and dedication, especially knowing that the WBS study process tasks your faith, your patience and your purse.*

**All of us must be grateful to God who allows us to play a little part in His scheme of redemption.**

Again, we have made it! In the last quarter of 2017, we completed production of another set of 9,000 [Gospel] books. This is a great milestone for which we are grateful and whose impact will be felt throughout the Nigerian brotherhood. Included in these printings is the next in the series *Let The Bible Speak*.





# The “Lost and Found” Bible

Lynn Camp — AMARILLO, Texas

In July 1961, I boarded the Danube Express at Vienna’s West Train Station, travelling to Budapest behind the Iron Curtain. What a contrast between free Austria and Communist-occupied Hungary—so dark and drab! Businesses were closed. Signs were banned. People hardly dared to speak or smile.

Carefully contacting names accumulated in Vienna, we met Ivan Martos, an officer of the National Bank of Hungary. He

traveled to Vienna twice each year for bank conferences. Later, I arranged to meet Ivan at West Train Station. When he arrived, he looked like he had lost a best friend. Indeed, he had. Ivan related his bitter experience.



Guards had boarded the train at the next-to-last stop on the Hungarian side. Checking all passengers, they came to Ivan. His ID and travel documents were in order. But one guard made Ivan open his briefcase. Finding Ivan’s personal Bible, he held it up for all to see and angrily shouted, “What is a man in your position doing with a Bible?” Before Ivan could respond, the guard threw the Bible out of the window of the moving train.

## God’s Word is powerful and accomplishes His purpose!

About two years later, at another Vienna meeting with Ivan, he was as upbeat as he had been downcast before.

He had received a postal package in Budapest—it was his Bible! An apologetic note explained:

*Our children were playing one day along the railroad tracks. They found your Bible. Not knowing what it was, one of them took it to his grandmother, who immediately recognized it as a Bible. Word spread quickly through the little village on the border. Some of our older people had possessed Bibles before they were banned and remembered the significance and power of the Word of God. We decided to conceal the discovery while those who so desired would make handwritten copies.*

*That joyful task lasted two years. Please forgive our keeping your Bible so long. But you might like to know that we are*



You. Sharing Jesus.

### POSTMASTER:

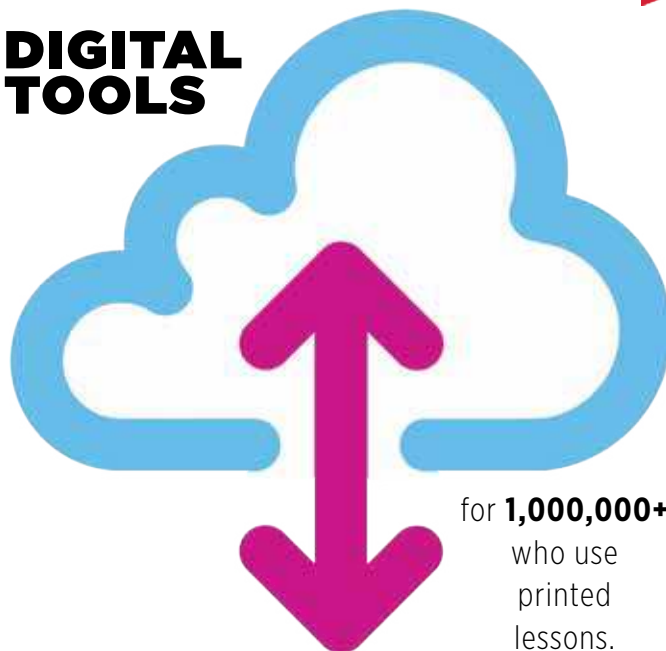
Send address changes to  
Action! World Bible School  
P.O. Box 2169  
Cedar Park, Texas 78630

*now a secret band of about 30 who have baptized each other and seek to follow Jesus in our daily lives.*

God’s Word is powerful and accomplishes His purpose! This conviction has led to Bible distribution ministries like Eastern European Mission and World Bible School.

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