

more than ever!



A special guest editorial by
Dr. Howard Norton, Chair of the
World Bible School Board of Directors

How interesting that God keeps raising the bar on our performance in order to bring out our best. Like the super athlete in the Rio Olympics who successfully completed his race and was already setting a goal to do better, God calls us to improve even when we're doing well. As an example, consider I Thessalonians 4:1,9-10.

We ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.... [Concerning brotherly love] we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more.

We feel this way about World Bible School. We are thankful for the 30 million-plus students of the past, the hundreds of thousands baptized into Christ, and the 1.5 million current students—but we want to do more and more, yes, more than ever.

**John Reese with
Howard at the Fall
WBS Board Meeting**



We want to increase the number of teachers and students in World Bible School. To reach a world that has increased from 3 billion people in 1960 to 7.3 billion today, we must have more workers and resources to reach more truth-seekers.

We want to ride the wave of receptivity in today's world. With migration of millions in the form of refugees, global business leaders, university students, tourists or just concerned parents seeking a better life for their families, the level of receptivity in many parts of the world staggers the imagination. Even without an Isaiah or Jeremiah to explain exactly what is happening, we believe that God is doing a mighty work in our lifetime.

**Let's do more with
this powerful tool
than we've ever done
before, and God will
give the increase.**

Caleb once said to Joshua, "Give me this mountain." Do you ever long for a mountain to climb for the glory of God the Father? I do.

Let's make WBS the mountain we seek. Let's do more with this powerful tool than we've ever done before, and God will give the increase.

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“Still Alive” by God’s Grace

Editor’s Note: During a recent World Bible School follow up seminar in Harare, Zimbabwe, my wife, Beth Reese, was registering attendees. Rusare Nyamasvisva arrived and said, “I have a speech prepared. I’d like to give my speech here today.” Unsure



Rusare: “I got changed!”

of what his speech entailed, Beth pointed out that the schedule was already full. Nevertheless, when Rusare went forward at the invitation, he pulled out his speech and delivered it to the whole assembly. He began by thanking WBS and his teacher Rebecca Shew of Gardendale, AL, for “helping me understand the Word of God.” Then Rusare continued,

I’m one of the individuals who got changed through the WBS courses. Due to crucial and unpleasant situations which I’m still experiencing, I grew up in severe depression which caused my childhood to be the most devastating one. I had to run away from home, and also tried to commit suicide at least four times. But with God’s grace, I’m still alive. I also have a challenge whereby I live with an abusive and alcoholic parent but also with God’s love, I’m strong and well.

WBS helped me in understanding the day-to-day Scriptures of the Bible for my life to be fruitful.

I am succeeding in this change because WBS helped me in understanding the day-to-day Scriptures of the Bible in order for my life to be fruitful and strong as I am. WBS helped me to implement goals as a Christian in changing my life. Though this is a sinful and unpleasant world, I am planning on teaching and changing other people’s lives, for their lives to be brighter.

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Claiming Africa More Than Ever

Isaac Daye — MONROVIA, Liberia

Organizers of the Africans Claiming Africa for Christ (ACAC) conference selected the theme for this year’s conference as “Challenges and Prospects for Evangelizing Africa.” Our Lord also saw the challenge of more prospects than preachers:

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).

With over seven billion souls in the world today, we need to do more than ever. We realize that mission works are less focused on Muslim nations. Hence, it was fitting to hold this ACAC in the predominant Muslim nation of Senegal, West Africa, in the capital Dakar. We prayed for open doors among Muslims, for our brethren in Muslim nations and difficult mission fields, and we planned how to reach unreached areas.

We were inspired by speakers and delegates from over ten nations. One piece of great news shared at the conference was the planting of the church in Guinea Bissau, West Africa. This was formerly a Portuguese colony and is considered the most animistic nation on the continent. They urgently need Portuguese Bibles and evangelistic materials.

For those who could not make it this year, I pray that come 2020, the Lord will open a door for you to attend in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Back home in Liberia our recent World Bible School campaigns yielded 19 baptisms, with eight in Jonestown, following a two-day local campaign with students of the Restoration Bible and Agriculture Institute. Heavy rains slowed down some activities, but our World Radio broadcasts are unstoppable. They continue to enter homes and hearts with the goodness of salvation.

We were hit hard by the death of our brother Gabriel Chea who was our WBS national coordinator. I delivered the funeral discourse. We request your prayers for safety and success as we travel across the nation to share the Gospel more than ever!



Isaac Daye in a previous WBS promotional video

In Liberia, our recent WBS campaigns yielded 19 baptisms.

Prepared by a Painful Past



Excerpt from the Zambia Mission’s *Kalomo Reporter*

Frank Muzabe is not your typical college student. In his forties, he is the oldest student on the Namwianga campus. His enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel also distinguishes him. But his past truly sets him apart. Muzabe spent most of the last 20 years behind bars in northern Zambia’s maximum-security prison.

As a young man, Muzabe trained as a driver and rose through the ranks to be in charge of the transportation department for a major company. During a leave from work, he was hired to drive a vehicle from Zambia to the Democratic Republic of Congo. What Muzabe did not know was that the vehicle had been stolen at gunpoint in Lusaka. He was detained by police and cooperated fully in their investigation, but eventually he and the actual robbers were convicted and sentenced to death.

In prison, Frank organized a church of Christ that grew to include over 150 members. He completed every available World Bible School course. He shared the Gospel freely and led many prisoners to the Lord. His good behavior and leadership drew the attention of



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More and More...

...live in a way that pleases God.



The Bible has much to say about the desires of this world (1 John 2:16) and the ways in which we become slaves to sin as a result. Jesus also knew man would crave things of the world and not be satisfied with only God's blessings. He reminded us in 1 John 2:17, "And the world is passing away along with its desires,

but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

If you were able to attend one of the 2016 WBS dinners held around the country, you heard the theme "More Than Ever" put forward. We discussed the apostle Paul's message in 1 Thessalonians 4:1 that we should "live in a way that pleases God...and do so more and more".

I want to share a quick story about some donors we had in both the Austin and Nashville dinners this year. At the end of each of these evenings, we had donors approach the staff with

the same message, "if you don't reach your target goal, please let us know. We want you to reach your goal and allow more students to study the Bible." Wow! Now, that is doing more and more.

The current chairman of the WBS board, brother Howard Norton, in his guest editorial in this edition, used the great example of Olympic athletes continuing to strive to improve, to grow, to advance...to do more and more. The church Jesus established has to be the same and continue to "live in a way that pleases God".

As 2016 comes to a close, please remember how much God has blessed you and realize the Great Commission is alive and well and the foundation of all of WBS efforts. Please go the extra mile and help with your gifts so WBS can reach more and more students and help us finish the year strong knowing you've done MORE THAN EVER!

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

Grateful for Great Events

World Bible School events inspire, train and congratulate WBS teachers. WBS Benefit Dinners also raise funds for connecting WBS teachers with seekers (currently some 1.5 million studying globally). Dinners in Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Chattanooga, Nashville and Little Rock raised over \$90,000. Additionally, 80 attendees enjoyed the WBS Breakfast Workshop, hosted by the Hillcrest church of Christ in Abilene, Texas.

WBS, World English Institute and China Now again shared presentation time at Tuesday's lunch at the Harding University Lectureship, and attracted 167 enthusiastic participants. Much of the credit for organizing WBS events goes to Sheryl Williams, Bill Colwell, Pat Brown, Harry Riggs and local coordinators. Thanks to all who contributed to great WBS events!



Abilene Breakfast Workshop: 1. Paula Leverett of Hillcrest, and 2. Don Pope of Hillcrest and Edie Connel of WBS presented. 3. Brian Davis spoke at the Chattanooga WBS Dinner.



WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

Action!

Editor: John Reese

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A Great Influence: Truman Scott

Joel Coppinger — VISALIA, California

On September 8, 1946, Truman Scott began his walk with Jesus in Woodlake, CA. My Grandpa, Joe F. Coppinger, baptized him. “Buckie,” as he was called by friends and family, was a student in the young men’s training class taught by my Grandpa. He started giving talks at the monthly area wide youth singings. There were three other “boys” giving talks—Lyndell Cheeves, Marshall Brookey and Billy Burton—who also became faithful preachers of the Gospel.



I remember “Buckie” was one of the big boys that I looked up to. For the rest of my life he was a great influence on me, especially from classes he taught at Yosemite Family Encampment. Truman went on to earn his Doctorate in Christian Counseling. In his own words, “*My ministry experience, perhaps the best of all learning, was with churches in California, Arkansas, Tennessee, Oregon and missionary work in Italy for 11 years.*” Beginning in 1985, he worked with what is now Sunset International Bible Institute. Truman



Ferne and Truman Scott

ultimately became Dean of the International Study Division, traveling all around the world to train preachers and set up remote branches of SIBI.

I knew him best as a caring, compassionate mentor, an encourager, a spiritual leader and a kind brother. Born on May 5, 1933, Truman reached his reward on September 13, 2016. Many will follow because of his passion for missions.

Editor’s Note: Joel Coppinger has been a long-time advocate and volunteer representative of WBS, as well as a past Action! contributor. We welcome Joel’s perspective on this great man of faith and service.

In Memory of Margaret Cox

Kings 7 describes the careful and costly way Solomon built great edifices designed to endure. Sure, the final buildings looked magnificent. But, among the admirers, who remembered the laborers that made it possible? Their day-to-day toil—digging, cutting and moving massive stone blocks—was anything but glamorous.



An early Action issue depicts Jimmie Lovell with the Coxes working on WBS courses.

People today marvel at World Bible School’s reach and impact. Do they remember foundation-layers like Jimmie and Vivian Lovell? (Their daughter Patsie with her husband Doug Trowbridge still serve on the WBS Board.) Do they remember co-workers like Howard and Margaret Cox? Their labors with Jimmie and Vivian go as far back as 1960, helping to establish this outreach method, crowned with the name “World Bible School” in 1973.

Margaret did back-office work (from homes), handling financial records and other details. In 1984 Howard retired from Boeing. Then both of them, supporting themselves, were able to devote full-time (1984-2011) to WBS coordination from Mission Viejo, CA. Co-workers Gary and Lisa Marsh were their special friends and helpers, with many other dear friends forming their WBS team.

As WBS aims to accomplish “more than ever,” never forget God’s early work through His unsung heroes. They toiled diligently and sacrificially in order to lay a lasting foundation for the future. Margaret rested from her labors earlier this summer, survived by Howard, her husband of over five decades, two children Charles and Dianne with their spouses, eight grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. WBS continues to build Margaret’s legacy through the Myers-Cox Teacher Assistance Fund. Your gift of remembrance and honor can be made out to World Bible School, noted for the Myers-Cox Fund, and sent to P.O. Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630.



Margaret and Howard Cox

Still Alive “by God’s Grace” from page 2

Rusare’s Bible studies had given him hope already. The day of the WBS seminar, he became clothed with Christ in baptism, and became fully empowered to live a new, abundant life. His expression of sincere gratitude applies also to donors like you. Your generous contributions allow WBS to advertise and to recruit students, connecting with Rusare and many others like him. Your support allows us to connect these seekers with teachers like Rebecca, and then to connect them with follow up workers like the Mhlangas who helped to organize the Harare seminar. Your impact is directly in line with the Great Commission, and we join Rusare in thanking you!

Prisoners Leading Prisoners

Carol Snyder – KINGSTON, Oklahoma

In 2007, we at the Fobb-Willis church of Christ met a young couple who had moved to our area. They were helping to build a lakeside home for a Christian man. Over time they began attending worship services with us and became Christians. They became well-known in the community for helping others and for good carpentry work.

One day to our shock and dismay we heard that they had been arrested. We could not understand how this could have happened. Later, however, we learned that they had moved to our area to escape arrest. While being held in

the county jail, our minister visited them and encouraged them. He also took biblical reading materials. The woman, soon

sent to the women's prison in Gatesville, TX, wrote us requesting that we send Bible lessons. We sent the World Bible School course books, which she promptly completed. While working on them, she forwarded to us many hundreds of names of women who were interested in studying God's Word. As a result, our prison ministry was born and continues today in not only women's prisons but men's as well all over Texas.

We have sent out over 1,400 lessons to inmates and their friends and families. We have also received requests from inmates who have heard of WBS and want to enroll. We frequently receive letters thanking us for WBS and that testify how the Bible studies have been of such a great help to them.

We are honored to be a part of this great work. Thank you to WBS for Bible-based lessons to share with others the Good News that is so needed in our world today.



Hated for Christ

Dave Schmidt — FLORENCE, Alabama

The following is a note from one of my students in India concerning the difficulties faced by a Christian in a Hindu society. Islam is even more difficult and threatening for Christians. Be prayerful, wise and encouraging as you teach people from resistant populations.

My community does not like Christianity. When I was baptized, people hated me. My friends—even older Christian brothers—did not encourage me for fear of being punished. My parents confined me to a room outside our house. I was not allowed to use the main door. I was treated as an untouchable person because my parents were from the Hindu religion.

Still today, Hindu society considers Christianity a religion of lower caste people. The community not only hated me but they started to hate my parents as well. Finally I felt compelled to stop going to church and I had to be separated from the Christian fellowship. Then I went back to Hinduism and began doing as other Hindu people do—which was wrong for me to do.

But I never gave up my love for Jesus. I never stopped praying and reading my Bible. I just wanted my whole family to turn to Jesus. Fortunately, in 2014, all of my family members accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We are happy now.



Philip, Lloyd and Roger with African partner



Three Generations: Serving and Praising More Than Ever!

Lloyd Deal — EDMOND, Oklahoma

Thirty years ago my family—Barbara and I, two sons, and a daughter-in-law—made our first mission trip to East Africa. We were to help establish a middle-class congregation, a first in Kenya as far as we knew. We all taught house to house in Nairobi, including our 16-year-old Roger. God blessed our work abundantly.

When we were asked to return, we did so, making more than 20 trips to East Africa, adding Uganda to the effort. More than 350 Christians from all over the U.S. have gone with us to teach the joyous saving Gospel.

Ten years ago, Roger's son Philip went with me; he was also 16 at that time. He taught in schools and villages of grass huts. Recently three generations—father, son and grandson—traveled to East Africa. What a special trip it was! We taught in a dozen locations from Mombasa on the east coast of Kenya to Arua in the far northwest corner of Uganda.

In those 12 locations we presented lessons to congregations, high schools, and gatherings of some 60 church leaders. Almost 5,000 pieces of evangelistic material were distributed. As always, many enrolled to become WBS students. As a serendipity, eight were baptized. How exciting it was to see what God could do with an old man, a son and a grandson. We praise the Lord more than ever!

A Student's Appreciation

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this great movement that God has commissioned to feed and train His flock as we await for His second coming. My Study Helper has been a great help and a true spiritual father to me. I feel more blessed and more equipped than before.



The journey which we have gone through together has made me more enlightened in the hidden mystery of the Word of God. I feel that I can do all through Christ who strengthens me. I feel more bold and encouraged.

My prayer is that Almighty God will rain His abundance of love and blessing upon the entire WBS fraternity for the superb job they are doing.

Your friend and a servant in Christ,

Joshua in East Africa

Prepared by a Painful Past from page 2

government leaders, and his sentence was reduced several times. Frank Muzabe became a free man in 2015. His joy at new freedom was tempered by learning that his father, mother, wife and other close relatives had all died while he was in prison.

Teachers and administrators from Namwianga had visited the prison and had learned of Muzabe's work there. They encouraged him to apply to George Benson Christian College, and he began his studies there in January.

Muzabe refuses to be bitter about this time behind bars: "I now see how God sometimes allows us to live through painful experiences so that we can grow closer to Him. Sometimes we learn lessons that would be impossible to learn in any other way, and, through these lessons, we are equipped to help others discover that they too can become children of God. Accept whatever God sends you."

More Than Ever in the Philippines

Richard Emperado — NEGROS, Philippines

Nearly 20 years ago, the MOSES team was born. MOSES stands for *Mobile Outreach School of Evangelism and Shepherding*. It is literally a mobile school. Instead of students coming to us, we go to where they are. It is truly an outreach project, hosted each month by a different congregation. We started on Negros, my home island.

We have no permanent school building, no librarian, no registrar or dean of the college. We do have our curriculum that is Christ and evangelism centered, with experienced, Christ-like teachers who are examples and mentors. Three of them were former presidents of Bible colleges, yours truly was the dean of students and teacher at a Bible college, and working on a master's degree when we started MOSES.

In 1997, of the Philippines' 75 provincial capitals, only 31 had churches of Christ. The 44 untouched capitals led to MOSES' focus. Nearly 20 years later, we have planted almost 30 churches, and others have joined this contagious evangelism. Last year, I shared "Vision 20/20" with my sponsoring church, Austin Avenue in Brownwood, TX, that MOSES will plant 7 more churches from 2015 to 2020. When we planted the first of these in Lucena City, I wrote to Val Laguna, "Thank God and thank you for making a 12 hour trip to bring this special 'ammunition'—the World Bible School flyers, one of the most effective tools to start talking to people about God and the Bible."

From the start we have used WBS for house to house evangelism. Bob Buchanan connected the WBS students with American teachers. Bob has also compiled many of his courses and made them available online for us to use. It always thrilled our contacts to have American teachers by correspondence through WBS while MOSES members have personal Bible studies with them.



MOSES at work in the Philippines

Editor's Note: Half of World Bible School is done by Study Helpers who teach by mail, email or Internet. The other half of WBS is done by diligent follow up workers nearest to students, wherever they may be in the world. The former need to realize that the latter often labor under difficult circumstances. The email below, forwarded to us by Dave Schmidt of Florence, AL, illustrates some conditions. The sender is "Paul" in Kenya. We omit the full name here because his travels take him into anti-Christian regions.

Follow Up Struggles

Dear brothers and friends,

Continue praying for Christians in South Sudan. There is a very big problem of leadership in this country. There is killing, raping and shooting. Many people have fled to Uganda, Kenya and [other parts of] South Sudan. The most urgent thing needed now is prayers.

I have communicated with your WBS student who is in Khartoum, Sudan. He is a teacher there. He is ready—he would like me to go and baptize him. I am also ready to go because I am a servant of God. [Paul confirms for David the student's email address and phone number.] What I need, brethren, is prayers and support. He was a Muslim and now he is willing to join the church of Christ. If we do not have a church of Christ, I believe that through this brother we can start a church there. [Specific appreciations and prayer needs follow.]



Just Do It.

(While you can...)

Have you read Ecclesiastes lately? It slashes down to the bottom line: the inevitability of death. Here is one implication:

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Long before Nike, Ecclesiastes makes the point: “Just do it!” Why? *Because you can!* Because the next stop—Sheol, the place of the dead—allows no such activity!

Ecclesiastes is similarly blunt about wealth. We arrive, and depart, empty-handed.

As he came from his mother’s womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand (Ecclesiastes 5:15).

That raises Ecclesiastes’ key question: “What gain is there to him who toils for the wind?” (Ecclesiastes 5:16). The New Testament answers, “For me... to die is gain!” (Philippians 1:21). God is greater than death. He turns the earthly into the heavenly. His inexplicable grace uses an exchange rate beyond any investor’s dreams. What is given here on earth becomes “treasure in heaven” (Matthew 6:19-20).



Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Luke 12:33-34).

“Give to the needy” is literally “give mercy” or “give charity.” Jesus Himself gave materially. He also gave healing. He especially gave Good News that saves. The Philippians partnered practically and financially in the same mission (Philippians 4:15-17). Why? Because this mission provides the best help the needy can receive. Because your brief window is open, and *you can!* Indeed, God Himself provides so that you *can* give.

WBS connects the needy with “You” — everyday Christians by the thousands.

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).

World Bible School is all about the mission (“You. Sharing Jesus”). WBS connects the needy with “You”—everyday Christians by the thousands. Then WBS connects responsive students with follow up. Your gifts forge each essential link, and are twice-blessed: 1) They bring the needy to the Source of all blessing. 2) They turn earthly gifts into heavenly treasure.

Energy and money will be spent one way or another. What is left behind will be spent by others who may not share your values (Ecclesiastes 2:18,21). This is your window to give now, to invest wisely in heaven’s interest. Just do it—*because you can!*



You. Sharing Jesus.

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