

2017: Beginning

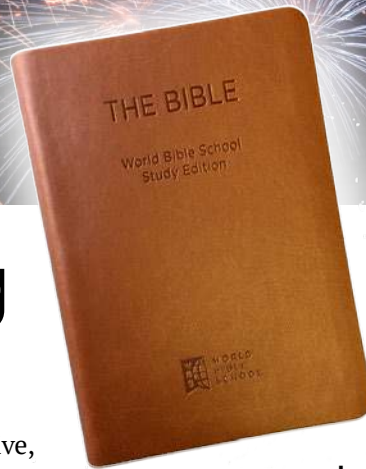
John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

This is much bigger than fireworks that briefly light up the New Year's night sky. Our explosive, resounding blast is more like dynamite. As Romans 1:16 says, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation." In the Greek New Testament that word "power" is *dunamis*, the origin for our word dynamite. Nothing in the universe is more powerful and more effective than God's Word. World Bible School pursues one simple mission: "You. Sharing Jesus." In other words, WBS connects "YOU," the everyday Christian, with seekers, and provides interactive tools that focus on JESUS and His Gospel.

WBS offers an ESV study Bible tailored for you to share Jesus even more effectively!

In direct fulfillment of that mission, we feel immensely privileged to announce the newest and most significant arrival yet. The best instrument of all is the Bible itself. As the name "World Bible School" suggests, Scripture is central to all that we do. We have always offered some kind of Bible for teachers to share with their students. Now, for the first time, after intensive and thorough development by WBS personnel, WBS offers the English Standard Version with study notes tailored for YOU to share JESUS even more effectively!

Indeed, this unique product will extend well beyond traditional WBS uses for several reasons. It combines compact attractiveness with readability, an excellent translation with suitably clear English, the inspired Word with helpful guides,



with a **Bang!**

The all-new WBS Study Bible is a literal translation in modern English. It offers helps that equip readers to pursue truth in a post-modern world—and that integrate with WBS' lessons to encourage continued personal study.

and all of that at an astounding price. For WBS students, this Bible is designed specifically for "Going Deeper"—as one study section is named. For those unfamiliar with our Bible studies, it serves as an introduction to WBS courses. For Christians who want to offer an affordable Bible to friends, neighbors and campaign contacts, this is the ideal gift. You can give it with confidence, knowing the Word's inspired perfection and the notes' healthy perspective. Learn more in this and subsequent *Action!*s. Best of all,

examine this new study Bible for yourself. **Order today by calling 800-311-2066.** At only

\$5 ...each (see page 8), you may well order a case, both for yourself and for others who should benefit. Let's saturate this nation and all peoples with the dynamic Word of God.

Share  Jesus.
Give a Bible.

After you have read this *Action!*, pull out the center spread as a poster for your church bulletin board.

Resolve to Seize the Moment

Editor's Note: Recently I had the privilege of speaking at the church in Portland TN where Jimmie Lovell grew up. Established in 1866, this still-vibrant congregation had just celebrated its 150th anniversary. They had prepared a celebration booklet which included a remarkable story of willingness to sacrifice to seize a unique opportunity. Here is an excerpt:

It may well be that one of our greatest successes in spreading the Gospel to the

world have come from members who have preached in the non-traditional sense. Bro. James "Jimmie" L. Lovell, who was baptized by Bro. J.P. Watson here in 1909, and who grew up in this this congregation, went on later to found World Bible School. Through his efforts and efforts of thousands of volunteers, millions of Bible study correspondence courses have been sent into many parts of the world resulting in thousands of people obeying the Gospel.

One of our greatest success stories in spreading God's Word came as a result of our involvement in World Bible School. Bro. Harry Summers, then a deacon and later an elder, was instrumental in placing a small classified ad in a small newspaper in the former Soviet Union. The ad was picked up, for some reason, by a nationally distributed newspaper and as a result, letters began to pour into our congregation from hundreds of places in that part of the world. By the time it was over, we had received and processed around 10,000 requests for Bibles, Bible study courses and other materials. The

congregation found people in our area who could translate from the Russian language and with their help every request was answered. After a while, we literally spent all the money in our treasury and went into debt to the bank for a loan to help finish the work. The debt was quickly repaid and we were able to continue the work for several years. One of the requests received was from an Igor Igeev. Igor obeyed the Gospel and continues to serve the Church in Russia today. For several years our congregation provided 100% of his support as a minister in Russia.

[This history goes on to state that Charles Caudill, current president of World Christian Broadcasting, was baptized and raised in this same congregation.]



WBS founder, Jimmie Lovell



The Portland church of Christ building

Resolve to Keep Sowing

If you've ever wondered what happened to a particular WBS student, this story should encourage you.

Brian Davis — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Cam Hurst and I traveled to Namibia's Caprivi Strip to meet John and Marti D'Alton, veteran church planters seeking support for a new work in the Caprivi. There I met a former student of World Bible School (a fairly common experience in Sub-Saharan Africa).

We had arranged to meet John and Marti in a randomly chosen lodge in the town of Katima Mulilo. While having breakfast, the young receptionist overheard us talking about WBS. She introduced herself as Nyasha Mahati, and explained that she had been a WBS student several years ago. However, due to political



John D'Alton, Brian Davis, Cam Hurst and Marti D'Alton

unrest and economic turmoil, she had left her home country of Zimbabwe to seek work in Namibia. Though she had completed the Master Series through "Born of Water and the Spirit," she had unanswered questions to explore. She asked, "Could you all perhaps help me with my questions?"

What a pleasure to include Nyasha in our conversations over the next couple of days as we studied the new birth. On Sunday morning after a time of worship, Nyasha temporarily closed the lodge reception and invited the entire staff to witness her obedience to the Gospel. She was baptized into Christ in the lodge's cold swimming pool. After her baptism, Nyasha shared with us that the translation of her name is "Grace." I couldn't help but wonder who her original WBS teacher was. I can imagine a teacher wondering why such a promising student suddenly discontinued studies. But the Gospel seed sown in good soil produces good fruit... even if it takes a while to germinate! Our stay in this out-of-the-way lodge was truly filled with Grace and peace.



Nyasha Mahati, being born of water and the Spirit.

Resolve to Follow Up

Ben Little — CAPE TOWN, South Africa

I live in Cape Town, South Africa, and assist with WBS follow up. While I was visiting the U.S., I received a WBS email alert—a follow up request from a student, Tommy Thiel, in Namibia. The voice of reason told me, “You are traveling, so you can’t adopt this student. In any event, he lives way too far from Cape Town!”

Nevertheless I clicked “adopt,” hoping to find someone nearer to him. Well guess what? I got no takers! So upon arrival at home, I contacted Tommy and learned that he was moving. If I resolved to follow up, it would require hasty preparations and a round trip of 1,100 miles. The voice of reason kicked in again: “How do you know he’s even serious about being baptized?”

Again, I ignored the negative voice masquerading as “reason” and made the long, winding trip through the arid Northern Cape Province, across the swiftly flowing Orange River, and on into the desert to meet Tommy. Soon after arriving at my “bed and breakfast” accommodation, Tommy and his wife Marie and their young sons came to meet me. Tommy and Marie had been studying together. Both wanted to be baptized,

There were tears of joy as they made the decision to follow Christ!

along with a colleague Niel. We arranged for the baptisms to take place the

following morning—if we could find sufficient water. Later I discovered that the B&B had a small swimming pool. The proprietors gave permission, and I excitedly phoned this news to Tommy.

Next morning, Tommy, Marie and Niel arrived with Lorensa, with whom they had been talking. After further study, I baptized all four of them into Christ. There were tears of joy all round as they felt the enormous weight of their decision to follow Christ in obedience to the Gospel!

After prayers for these new babes in Christ, I drove home elated at how God had worked all of this out for the good (Romans 8:28). I arranged for the Thiels to visit Southern Africa Bible College where Jerry Hogg introduced them to brethren gathered at the Benoni Lectureship.



Ben about to baptize Tommy.



Ben baptizing Lorensa.



Ben and Mel Little, with daughter Kayla and son Zack

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The English Standard Version (ESV) is a literal translation in modern English. The specially-created WBS Study Helps:

- equip current and next generations to pursue truth in a post-modern world
- teach the principles of New Testament Christianity—including one's faith and baptism response to the Gospel
- integrate with WBS' Bible lessons—encouraging continued personal study
- sensitively lead non-Christians to consider Biblical truths
- include a helpful chronological daily Bible reading plan.

The Bible includes a concordance, and is attractive, durable and inexpensive.

ORDER TODAY! Go to worldbibleschool.net/bible or call **800-311-2006**. **\$5 each** up to 99 **\$4.25** each for 100 to 499 **\$3.50** each for 500 or more



You. Sharing Jesus.

Honor To Whom Honor Is Due

“Honor to whom honor” quotes Romans 13:7 where the context is respect for governing authorities. If we should honor civic leaders, even ungodly ones, how much more should we honor godly children of the eternal King. Indeed, honoring within the Kingdom is natural and right (Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 16:18; Philippians 2:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 5:17). The shape of recognition may vary, but the main purpose is the same. Far from drawing attention away from Christ, such honoring draws attention to Him, to His amazing work in His family. We highlight examples for imitating Him (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; Hebrews 13:7). Additions to World Bible School’s **“Wall of Honor”** typically come from you, as you nominate honorees. With that background, we recognize two special ladies who are integral to WBS’ progress.



WBS staff members enjoy honoring a surprised and humbled Mary Nell and Edie before a crowd of WBS volunteers. From left: Bill Colwell, Mary Nell Kemper, Kevin Rhodes, Jonathan Towell and Edie Connel



Mary Nell Kemper

Mary Nell (Bruns) Kemper grew up in Kerrville TX. She is a graduate of Tivy High School (where she met and married her high school sweetheart, Gordon Maurice Kemper) and what is now Texas State University. They both taught at public and private schools across Texas, including Brentwood Oaks Christian School in Austin. After retiring from teaching, she processed mail for 12 years at WBS’ Cedar Park office. She retired fully in 2013, shortly after Maurice passed away. Using her teaching talents, Mary Nell conducted workshops to set up WBS programs and train teachers. She brought to these and other events extensive experience as a teacher and WBS coordinator, first at Wimberley and then, from about 1996, at Westside church of Christ in Round Rock where she continues to coordinate.

When Edie and Mary Nell were honored, WBS president John Reese joined celebrations by speaker-phone. He recalled the critical role the Kempers played in his own support when he joined Tex Williams and WBS in Austin in 1991. He also said, “Mary Nell was the mail sorter who received hundreds of thousands of answer sheets from WBS students, and passed them on to their respective teachers. It was repetitious and laborious work, but we all recall the genuine joy and conscientious care with which Mary Nell processed the student returns. She

would often hold up an answer sheet and say, ‘That represents another precious soul!’ For her, every aspect of WBS teaching and processing is a labor of true love.” *We appreciate you, Mary Nell!*

Edie Connel

Edie (Peters) Connel first met World Bible School founder Jimmie Lovell in the 1950’s when he came to her congregation. They supported Jimmie’s work and sent Bibles and courses all over the world. Her dedicated parents and many missionary guests gave her a passion for “going” and for teaching the Bible.

In 1963, Edie married Bob Connel. For 53 years, Edie served others as a physical therapist. Bob preached and taught singing for 65 years, working closely with Reuel Lemmons of WBS (Jimmie’s successor). Bob passed away in 2016.

In 1995, Edie joined the WBS staff to help Kit Mullins with the new public tool called Internet. She has been a consistent, reliable and stable influence through many new developments in a fast-changing world. As inscribed on her plaque, “She has helped WBS lead the way in world evangelism using emerging technologies and trends. Edie impacts the lives of untold thousands of students by mentoring new teachers, answering questions, solving problems, recruiting follow up partners and more.” Her sincere love makes her a dear friend for so many of us who use WBS tools. *We appreciate you, Edie!*

Resolve To Attend Red River!
Rally to reach America
and the world with the Gospel!

Under the theme *I Love to Tell the Story*, the 31st Red River Family Encampment will focus on practical and effective evangelism—including an emphasis on new World Bible School tools.

Date: Saturday June 24-28, 2017 **Place:** Red River, New Mexico

Info & pre-registration: www.rrfe.org **Housing:** www.redriver.org



RESOLUTIONS

and the WBS Study Bible's
Chronological Daily Bible Reading Plan

A fresh year! A fresh start! A poem by Emma Martindale pictures the year as "your ship, your own ship" over which God has made you captain. January is your time, with God's help, to map your course and set your sail and rudder.



Placing first things first, why not prioritize God's Word? The new WBS Study Bible offers an ideal tool for reading through the Bible in one year. Found on page 1468, this help is entitled "Chronological Daily Bible Reading Plan." Chronological refers to an approach that adds perspective for understanding the Bible. Many read the Bible, book after book, in the traditional "table of contents" order. That is fine, but the reader may lack a sense of the flow of history. Where does each book of the Bible fit into the overall picture? What is the sequence of events and writings? Which books of the Bible relate to each other as belonging to same time-period? A "chronological" plan helps to answer such questions.

Further, the plan in the new WBS study Bible remains useful year after year because it assigns readings to days, not dates. Exactly 365 readings take you through the entire Bible in one year. (Don't be put off just because the first of January is past. When you get your WBS study Bible, you can do some catch-up reading or you can begin on the current day and take a day at a time for the next 364 days.) The important thing is regularity and sticking to your resolution.

While speaking of resolutions, here is another to consider: Share God's message! This unique Bible combines quality presentation with an astoundingly affordable price. As you will see for yourself, it has a great look and feel. More importantly, all of the content is quality—well worth sharing. The study notes focus on God and His Son and Spirit, and their way to salvation. They promote New Testament Christianity. Christians can feel good about sharing such beautiful Bibles, whether with youth and new members, or with neighbors and friends, or with WBS students, seekers and campaign contacts.

Speaking of resolutions, here's one: Share God's message!

Going a step further, you can also share the lessons to which the Bible's notes relate. Sharing your faith is simple with WBS. You can enroll to be become an online WBS Study Helper at www.worldbibleschool.net. You can contact the WBS office in Cedar Park for how to set up a postal program. You can even order

courses and use them to meet specific needs. Whichever you choose, sticking to your resolution is vital. Some make a tentative start, then quit when responses are not immediately and positive. All evangelistic methods, even as simple and effective as WBS, require patient pursuit. If a student drops out, select another. Keep

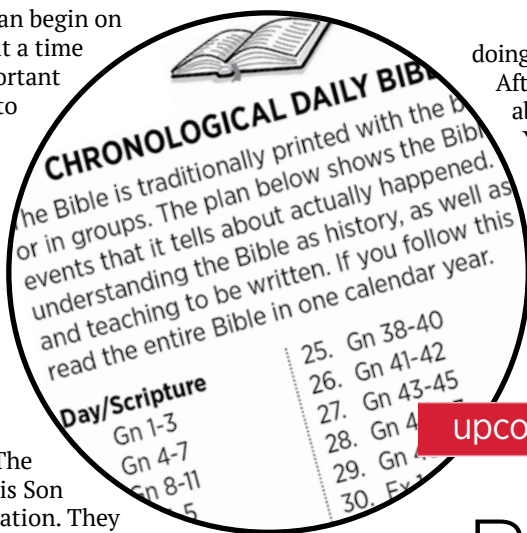


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doing this and in due course you hit veins of responsiveness. After all, resolution is not just about an initial decision. It is about determination to follow through to fulfill that decision. You can do it because you have divine help. In the concluding words of Emma's poem, "So now, in starting on your trip, we ask God to help you sail your ship."

To order WBS Study Bibles, call 800-311-2006 or email bibles@worldbibleschool.net. Pricing:
\$5 each up to 99 **\$4.25** each for 100-499 **\$3.50** each for 500+



RETENTION:

WBS Study Bibles as incentives for WBS students to study further

