

Action!

World
Bible
School



Teaching the Word.
Reaching the World!

Volume 70, Number 4

July 2006

PARTNERS



"I Praise God for WBS!"

By Carl Mitchell

In my opinion, World Bible School (WBS) is one of the most exciting works among churches of Christ! Having known Jimmie Lovell since the 1940s, and having worked closely with him in the 1960s, I was impressed by the urgency Jimmie felt for finding ways to evangelize that could include

all our members in the task. To this day WBS remains a marvelous example of the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Pet. 2:4-9).

The church's rapid growth in the first century is presented as a work accomplished by the members who went everywhere "preaching the word" (Acts 8:1-4). It was believed

the church was a body, and the Lord gifted individual members so that every body part had a function to perform (1 Cor. 12:12-20). Early church leaders were told to train individuals for ministry with the promise that when each member does its work, numerical

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A Call to Partnership

By John Reese



Partnership begins with an inestimable privilege: God makes us co-workers with Himself (1 Cor. 3:9). Then, as Carl Mitchell reminds us, Christ builds His body — His globe-spanning team — "as each part does its work" (Eph 4:16). Some call the majority of these parts "ordinary members." In fact, they are royal priests whose involvement is essential to progress.

The principle of involvement is germane to World Bible School's success. What you see in the millions taught and the bountiful harvests is simply the Lord at work through His everyday members. Nearly every member in this country has the gifts of literacy and basic Bible knowledge, which means that each can spread the Gospel seed — and enjoy its fruit! — through WBS.

**The Lord
is at work
through His
everyday
members.**

Among our treasured partners are field evangelists and those missionary bands we call sister ministries. They range from preacher trainers to radio and TV broadcasters to printers and health workers. God often uses these dedicated groups to place within reach of Christians the modern tools that otherwise would be too technically difficult or costly. Under-girding all these are partners in prayer and generous givers. For examples in WBS' case, prayer partners help open doors and contributors provide the advertising to get new students.

This issue celebrates our many partnerships. Illustrative news captures the spirit and value of teamwork between our ministries and ministers (each member is a ministering priest). May these reports spur you to greater personal involvement and partnership, first with God, then with His team-members.

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**Reaching
Tomorrow**  **today!**



World Radio's Bill Smith and WBS' Tex Williams exemplify partnership. See other examples on page 2 ...



Partners for More Study

Question: **What can teachers do after students complete all that WBS offers?** Here is a typical scenario: A convert through WBS is thrust into new responsibilities. He needs spiritual nurture, and materials to teach others. WBS' maturing courses *The Family of God* and *Live a Life of Love* supply these abundantly, but after them he demands more. He may need training as an evangelist or a degree for access to government schools and institutions. If he has Internet, he can take university level courses on Ian Fair's **Center for Church Enrichment** (www.centerce.org). What other resources are there for the student?

Answer: **Other partnerships for ongoing studies.** Students who cannot travel to training schools can continue through other correspondence studies:

- Roger Dickson's **Africa International Missions** offers 50 IBI university level courses that equip leaders (P.O. Box 1919, Bellville 7535 South Africa; aimission@telkomsa.net).
- **Nations University**, led by Mac Lynn, teaches courses in various languages on-line toward advanced degrees in theology (www.nationsu.org; student.services@nationsu.org).
- **Truth for Today** sends monthly preaching and teaching materials packed with biblical commentary (www.biblecourses.com; 501-305-1472; staff@biblecourses.com).
- **World English Institute** helps students to learn or improve English, using Dick Ady's biblical lessons (www.weiady.org; 503-661-0348; WEIADY@aol.com).
- Hillary Motsinger's **New Life Behavior** materials provide solutions for healthy spiritual living (www.nlbm).

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Praise God for Partners!



From all of us to all of you:
"Thank you, Partners!"

We praise God for our partners in spreading the Gospel! Recently we invited our friends to tell of their relationship with WBS. The responses were overwhelming — more than we could fit into this issue. So we will begin here and, Lord willing, continue the list later. As you look over the comments below, notice the variety and enthusiasm. Notice how wide and deep each impact is. As George Funk says, "Team work is dream work." God is making dreams come true through great partnerships!



Benny Baker of **Misión Para Cristo**: "It is a special privilege to be a partner with WBS in a very proactive manner. Our work in Nicaragua has never had enough teachers or materials. One of the greatest blessings of Spanish WBS is that it gives us teachers and materials to put into students' hands. June 11, at our National Worship Service in Managua, we gave out over 7,000 *Introduction Lessons* and many more flyers for Nicaragua." [Editors' Note: See the related story by Kevin Rhodes.]

Buck Griffith of **NewLife Behavior Ministries**: "NLBM and WBS are a powerful tag-team around the world and not only among prison populations. Louis Gerber (South Africa), Felix Martinez (Philippines), Phil Payne (Russia), Barry Phiri (Zambia), Roberto Martinez (Mexico) and others report conversions from this effective partnership. At times WBS provides the initial contact and NewLife curriculum follows through; other times it works the other way. It is thrilling to be part of this dynamic duo." WWW



Dick Ady of **World English Institute**: "It could be said that WEI is the daughter of WBS. It is a joy and a blessing to work with you hand-in-hand. Students who complete WEI courses are introduced to WBS materials. The combination of WEI and WBS studies proves very effective. Between the two evangelistic tools, God is teaching millions of people about Jesus Christ in nearly every nation on earth. To God be the praise, the honor and the glory forever!" Tom Langley adds: "I've been inspired by WBS, our sister correspondence ministry. They speak in terms of reaching people in biblical proportions, not just tens of thousands, but millions! May God continue to bless WBS and WEI as we both strive to reach the entire world." WWW



Glenn Boyd of **International Health Care Foundation**: "Two full time chaplains at Nigerian Christian Hospital offer WBS courses to patients. We use WBS at clinics in Ghana, and at Palmer Memorial Hospital in Nigeria. Last December's annual WBS seminar in Omoba had 1,200 participants, many new enrollees, and 28 baptized. WBS has been a wonderful "partner" through the years." [Editors' Note: See the related story by Linda Benskin.]

J.C. Choate of **World Literature Publications**: "From its inception, we have worked with WBS teachers in India and Africa. We have followed up in India, and also supply books at reduced cost to teachers for their students. Probably no other single program in the Lord's church in this period of history has been instrumental in getting more American Christians involved in evangelism and in actually bringing about the conversion of people worldwide than World Bible School." WWW



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Casting the 'Net

Partners in UK lead an American to Christ

Bill and Ann Martin commute between Texas and England....well, not quite. They have a home and business in two places, Austin and Harrold. They spend parts of the year in each place. Their partnership with WBS brought them into the loop when a WBS teacher in Austin, Beverly Kimbrough, needed follow up for her Internet student, Chris. The emails — reproduced with permission — tell the story.

April 15. From Beverly to leaders at her local church: *I have a student in England who is seriously considering being baptized. What resources can we offer him? He is a 20 year old American, stationed at a military base in Southern England.* The leaders immediately informed Bill and Ann. They connected him

with Christians in Brandon, near Cambridge in England.

May 4. From Chris to Beverly: *Just wanted to let you know I met with an elder from the local church. We had a really good talk and I think I may be going on a picnic with the church Saturday and then service on Sunday. I think this may have been one of the most sincere people that I have ever met. I am going to reread some of these lessons a bit, just to make sure I didn't miss anything before I get baptized, but he offered to do it this weekend. Thank you so much for all your help.*

May 21. From Chris to Beverly: *I was baptized today! Everyone at the church was*



so happy, as was I. I could almost hear the angels in Heaven rejoicing so to speak. Thank you, Mrs. Kimbrough, for all you have done to help me know the Truth. I hope all is well with you and your family. Talk to you soon.

WANT TO READ MORE?

The World Wide Web offers more space for a story's complete version or related stories that did not get into print. When an article carries the **WWW** symbol, learn more about it by going to www.worldbibleschool.net and clicking on "What's New on the Site?"



Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

Have you seen this before?

Do you know what it means?

Many of you already realize that October 29 is *WBS Impact Sunday*. As previously introduced in *Action!*, this is the big day of the year when churches of Christ around the country bind together in unity to make a great impact on reaching a lost world. On this day, churches set aside a special gift of support for the worldwide evangelism of WBS.

Our newest efforts are especially to target those under the age of 25. This age group is the key to the physical and spiritual well-being of the generations to come. We believe—*quite fervently*—that this next generation needs to know Jesus Christ more than ever. Just \$1,000 from 300 churches will help us reach our financial goals for this phase of our student recruitment efforts.

Be on the lookout: WBS coordinators and elders are now receiving packets—including an impacting DVD presentation—with full information about Impact Sunday. Present it to the leaders at your congregation. Get them to commit to this day. Make sure your church is fully engaged with WBS in...

JUST
THINK.
10.29.06

**Reaching
Tomorrow**  **today!**

Street Address Change

The city has changed WBS' physical address from 13441 Lime Creek Road to this new address: 16110 Anderson Mill Road, Cedar Park, TX 78613. The Post Office box will remain the same.

Action!

EDITOR John Reese

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Miriam and Austin Vimba with Dorian and Cheri Flynn in Zimbabwe.



Matabeleland: Tragedy into Triumph

By Dorian Flynn

The tragedy that Zimbabwe faces is world renowned.

- 4,000,000 Zimbabweans go to bed hungry every night.
- Life expectancy for women has plummeted to 34 years, and men down to 37.
- The Trade Unions' President says, "At independence 25 years ago 30% of the population lived below the poverty line, now, in 2006 it's over 90%. Unemployment was between 15% and 20%, now it is over 85% if we want to be conservative and use government statistics."
- The last 12 months saw an inflation rate over 1,000%.
- HIV/AIDS related illnesses kill at least 3,000 Zimbabweans each week.

The southern province Matabeleland is hardest hit, yet is also experiencing exciting



Jacob Moyo (left) teaches the Gospel and drip irrigation.

blessings. Since 1995, families like the Vimbas, Mlangenis, Moyos, Sizibas and Tshumas have re-ignited neglected churches. Two keys have been World Bible School and World Radio. Radio speaker Velaphi Mlangeni leads a team at Bulawayo's WBS office that teaches over 10,000 students. They report some 1,200 baptisms. Since 2002, the team has started three new congregations in Bulawayo, and 21 elsewhere. Works include Victoria Falls, Hwange and Gweru (with WBS graduates). Bulawayo's Nkulumane church of Christ flourishes while sending members to start new churches.



Velaphi Mlangeni

Ndebele churches are immersed in meeting the needs of desperate people. Having been trained by Healing Hands and by Klaus Müller in Zambia, Jacob Moyo conducts workshops on drip irrigation to drought stricken farmers and spreads the Gospel. He has baptized over 100. The very poor receive food and clothes. Wells are being dug. American churches in Gadsden and Florence, Ala., Nacogdoches, Tex., Brentwood, Tenn., and elsewhere help in many ways.

I grew up in Bulawayo where my father served as an elder for many years. My wife and I have been blessed to share in this partnership for bringing rebirth to Matabeleland. [WWW](http://www.wbs.org)

¡Qué Gran Día!

By Kevin Rhodes

Yes, Sunday, June 11, was indeed a big day in Managua, Nicaragua. 6,500 Christians from throughout the country gathered in the capital city to worship and celebrate "Unity in Love."

It was also a great day for World Bible School — *la Escuela Bíblica Mundial*. I was invited to exhort these vibrant *hermanos en Cristo* to be proactive in sharing Jesus. "We share unity in love... in hope... in Jesus. Let's share what we have with those around us!"

This kicked off another prong of WBS' focus on Latin America. In partnership with Benny Baker and *Misión para Cristo*, along with Eddie Cloer and *Truth for Today*, Nicaragua is a significant target for student recruit-

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

ment. The Nicaraguan church was encouraged to enroll friends and family for Bible study through WBS. They were given Spanish language flyers, enrollment forms, and sample *Introduction Lessons*. Throughout the week, Baker and I toured the country giving church leaders seminars on how to use WBS effectively for evangelism. Says Baker: "With these tools in the hands of these believers, God will bless Nicaragua through WBS!"

And I echo what Benny says: "*¡Dios bendirá a Nicaragua a través de la EBM!*"



6,500 jubilant Nicaraguans took WBS "to the streets" to enroll students.

Partners for the Muslim North

By Linda Benskin

WBS teachers from our home congregation, Westover Hills church of Christ, had an exciting partnership with us when we were missionaries with a clinic in Northern Ghana. The major religions there are Islam and traditional (idol worship), but Christianity is rapidly taking hold, in large part due to WBS. Now that we do not live there, local Christians have taken over our roles, continuing the powerful and effective partnership with Westover's WBS teachers.

Every two years since 2000, a small group of Americans has come to hold a WBS Cam-



PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

paign in the town and district. Campaigners pair up with local evangelists, spending five days teaching about Christ in the schools and blanketing all middle schools with about 7,000 WBS Introduction Lessons.



School-aged pupils in Northern Ghana are eager WBS students, too.

We set up a wooden drop-off box for WBS lessons for students who cannot afford to buy in-country postage. A local member gathers the lessons periodically, mailing them straight to the Westover church. The teacher may send the student a coupon to be redeemed for a Bible from a local church member, giving them a chance to meet.

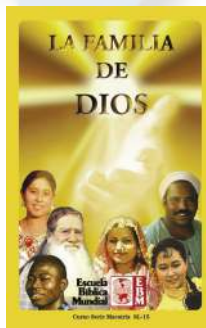
Two years later, the next WBS campaign group distributes lessons to a new set of pupils. All active WBS students are invited to a WBS Seminar which connects them to Christian leaders in their communities. Sharon Gardner, who has 2,500 students in that district, commented, "Westover's WBS experience has been great and is something that should be mentioned to congregations as a way to use WBS in partnership with their own missionaries." **WWW**

Editor's note: The clinic is a work of the International Health Care Foundation. Recently, Westover deacon Kent Chambers led yet another American group, and reported from that district, "We taught at least 6,000 students this week, plus their teachers. Without exception, they want to be visited again to



Another new believer is baptized in the Daka River.

better understand Christianity. We met a new brother in Christ. After his conversion, he lost his job and was boarded out of his own house by his father, an Imam. Later the father, uncles and others beat him severely. He fled to this town where the Christians rented a room for him. He and his wife live in a bare 12x12 room with three suitcases, a wooden bench and a small, red light bulb. His wife often discusses going back to Islam. But his faith has remained strong. Another Muslim who witnessed his suffering was baptized today in the Daka River. Please pray for them."



Familia de Dios, the Spanish version of *The Family of God*. This is the new course on the church, based on Ephesians. Designed for advanced correspondence, and equally for class or small group study, *La Familia* helps students to find assurance in Christ, their place in His church and a healthy understanding of non-denominational Christianity. For a sample, or to place an order, phone toll free 877-393-0211 or 512-345-8190 ext 115.

World Bible School continues to pour resources into Spanish outreach. The most recent result is the launch of *La*

**Teachers
needed
for
Spanish
WBS!**

Praise God For Partners from page 2

Mac Lynn of Nations

University: "I have personally met overseas those who have been converted with the use of WBS materials and have been much impressed with their maturity. Many of these students have continued their studies with Nations University — going as far as completing the master's degree with us. WBS is often the initial point of contact for study. NU then moves the student into college-level studies that prepare the person for ministry." **WWW**

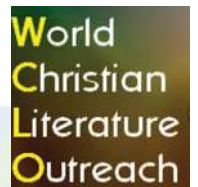


Roger Dickson of **Africa International Missions:** "AIM has three ministries. *International Bible Institute*

equips preachers using 50 advanced correspondence courses. The student body's average age is 36, and two-thirds came to us as WBS graduates. *International Bible Studies* teaches basics and provides kits to national churches to use correspondence. Every IBS student is encouraged to write for WBS courses. *International Christian Press* (including the AfriBible Project) also offers WBS. African churches, AIM and WBS form a great three-way partnership." **WWW**

Russ Lawson of **World Christian Literature Outreach:**

"WCLO has provided extended learning for WBS students since 1992. We take WBS to the next level for maturing churches and church leaders. We began in Kenya and now have sent 30,000 courses to 11 countries." **WWW**



Partners for More Study from page 2

org; 361-855-3372; nlbcasa@yahoo.com).

- **World Christian Literature Outreach's** courses mature churches and leaders (www.wclo.net; 937-615-9777; rlawson@wclo.net).
- **J.C. Choate** books double as courses (www.worldangelism.org; 662-283-1192; choate@worldangelism.org).

These guided study samples give an idea of the valuable resources available through our partners.

T^{ips} for Teachers!

by John Reese

New WBS Teacher Instructions

World Bible School materials and methods keep improving, but it has been some time since teacher instructions have been upgraded. Now WBS has produced the new manual for postal teaching. The document, entitled *WBS Program Guide*, has three parts: Essentials for Getting Started; Essentials for a Church WBS Program; and Additional Teacher Helps and Information. Where possible, coordinators and teachers should download the *WBS Program Guide* from "What's New on the Site" at www.worldbibleschool.net (also check there periodically for the latest updates). Coordinators should familiarize themselves with the new features, and also print out copies for teachers, especially new teachers. Those who lack computer access may contact WBS for a printed original that can be copied. Order an original by calling 1-877-393-0211 or email orders@worldbibleschool.net.

Mailing Clarification

You may have received recent communication that created confusion about outgoing mailing systems. By way of clarification,

Cedar Park WBS has a longstanding, positive relationship with Alpha Mailing Solutions, a private company that handles much of our office's overseas mail. WBS teachers have also found that AMS handles their mail in a responsible and timely manner, at considerable savings over the US Post Office. By that comparison, it is estimated that churches using AMS saved \$400,000 in 2005. You may contact AMS at 512-699-1994 or write to AMS, Inc., P.M.B. 299, 100 E. Whitestone Blvd. Suite #148, Cedar Park, Tex. 78613.

Campaigns and Schedules

Space limitations in *Action!* keep us from publicizing evangelistic campaigns as prominently as we would like. We recognize the importance of sharing campaign information for at least two reasons. (1) Some members want to go on campaigns and need to know what is available. (2) WBS teachers need campaign schedules to invite their students to attend particular venues and times. For these purposes, we are posting fresh campaign information at our home Web site: www.worldbibleschool.net, then click on "WBS Campaigns."

Product Spotlight!

By Beth Reese

G*rowing as Friends*, the second book in the WBS Children's Series, has just been released.



Growing as Friends continues the stories about Kay and Don and their families. Of course the real stories are about Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David and other heroes in the Old Testament. The lessons help to develop character traits such as honesty, courage and teamwork, and help the children learn lessons like choosing the path to a better life and letting prayer overcome worry.

Reactions to the new Children's Series have been excellent. Teachers are being very creative in using the new books for their WBS students. They also read them to their grandchildren and use them as curriculum for their local Bible classes.

Becoming Friends and *Growing as Friends* complete the books on the Old Testament. Order these books today by calling 1-877-393-0211 or email orders@worldbibleschool.net.

Partners from page 1

growth will occur in an environment of love (Eph. 4:11-16). It was also believed that judgment would involve individual accounting for the use of the talents given (Matt. 25:14-30).

Sadly, history documents how the intended ministry of the whole church to the whole world increasingly became a ministry of a few called the "clergy." What was to be a ministry to the world became predominantly a ministry to the church. As one writer insightfully said, "By making it a ministry of the clergy to the people, there are two losses: loss of a ministry to all the people (now only to the church), and a loss

of joy, freedom, spontaneity, and variety of Christian ministry." Some have suggested the modern definition of "service" could be spelled, "serve us!"

Allow me to give three reasons why I am sold on WBS. The evidence makes it obvious that WBS is excitingly effective, on a world-wide basis, in bringing new members into the body of Christ. This writer has been involved in mission work in Italy since 1950. A few years ago, Italy began permitting African nationals, including Ghanaians, to migrate to Italy. Partly through WBS, the church is strong in Ghana. So hundreds of these new "Italian" members are fervent in faith and very

evangelistic. Consequently, they are blessing the Italian congregations.

Secondly, working members tend to be fulfilled and happy. Nonworking members can never know the joy of being active and productive citizens of Christ's kingdom. Many fall away because they have little or no part in the work of the Kingdom. WBS has blessed the church by involving thousands of members in Kingdom work.

Finally, WBS has given us a wonderful model for the way the church should look. Thanks for the way our God has worked through Jimmie Lovell and all his successors to encourage the Biblical ideal of "the priesthood of all believers." **WWW**



Honor/Memorial Contributors List

In Appreciation

Jaxie Palmer, for the quilts
Don & Lida Taylor

In Honor of Birthdays

Doyle Sumner, 1st birthday as a child of God
Art & Laquita Searles

Carmen Grace Sutherlin
M/M M. F. Sutherlin

In Honor of Dear Friends

Thelma Bailey
A. B. & Bobbie Martin

Erwina Moore
Charmaine Barker

Linnie Van Winkle
James T. McClung
Earnest Jackson

In Honor of...

Barbara Cole
Virginia Bice

Henry Farrar, MD, my brother
Mrs. Gene Patterson

Ashley Reynolds
James T. McClung
Earnest Jackson

John Stockton, Jr., my brother
Peggy Cravens

Tex & Mary Jane Williams for years of service to WBS
Floyd & JoAnn Myatt
Ron & Susan Pottberg

In Memory of...

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D.H. & Nancy Wiese

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Bill & Mickie Kennedy

Chestle E. Cates
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Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts are ideal ways to remember a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift is used to "teach the Word and reach the world." Upon receipt of your gift, an appropriate letter of acknowledgement will be sent naming the honoree and you as the thoughtful donor.

Please accept my:

☐ **HONOR GIFT**

☐ Birthday ☐ Anniversary
☐ Illness ☐ Friendship Other _____

☐ **MEMORIAL GIFT**

This gift is for ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____

This gift is from:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Church (optional) _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. _____
☐ Ms. _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Relationship to Honoree _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.

☐ Visa ☐ Discover
☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex Other _____

Card No. _____

Expiration _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as on card) _____

Signature _____

Compañeros for Latin America

By Ron Pottberg

Recently four rivers converged to flood Latin America with God's saving Word. They are World Bible School, Baxter Institute, Misión Para Cristo and Truth for Today. The latest point of confluence was Baxter's Seminar for preachers, May 11-14. Baxter president, Steve White, reports that this year over 60 preachers traveled from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. They joined the 69 current students from 12 nations. With other attendees, the total attendance approached 200, and Sunday's service topped 800.

Also participating were three representatives from WBS in Cedar Park. Ron Pottberg



Baxter students show their WBS Courses.

and Kevin Rhodes conducted a workshop showing the Spanish tools available through WBS. They delivered 100 sample sets and 5,000 flyers for evangelists to use in their home communities. They also made plans with Benny Baker for distributions in Nicaragua, beginning with the national worship service in Managua (see the related story by Kevin Rhodes).

These efforts coincide with a major initiative by Truth for Today, based in Searcy, Ark. Eddie Cloer explains, "Truth for Today has put together a ten-year plan for covering the earth with the basic Gospel message. The backbone of the plan involves putting millions of books containing New Testaments in each section of the earth. The specific target for 2006 is Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean Islands."

Specialized printings of the book *Becoming a Faithful Christian*, which includes the

New Testament and study notes, are in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English. Each book contains an attractive advertisement for WBS courses and the addresses of WBS Service Centers to which respondents apply for correspondence studies.



Steve White, Baxter Institute, with Truth for Today Bible



Benny Baker with Nicaraguans

Large distributions of WBS lessons and Truth for Today materials are already increasing the need for more Spanish correspondence teachers. Like their English language counterparts, teachers for Spanish WBS do not need to be Bible experts, have a degree or even have experience. The courses do most of the teaching. The process is so simple that non-fluent helpers can grade and address postal courses, freeing more fluent teachers to read the Spanish comments and to interact with the student. For information about postal teaching, contact 1-800-311-2006. Fluent teachers are urgently needed for Spanish WBS on Internet. See www.ebiblecamundial.org.

Upcoming with WBS...

Are your families involved?

How many of your families need a Change Can?

World
Bible
School



Address Service Requested

Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

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