



Teaching the **Word**. Reaching the **World**!

Mission & Vision

Prayerful Planning Within the Will of the Father • 2009-2013





By John Reese any modern enterprises display their "mission statement" a clear and concise expression of purpose.

For example, the Internet company Google aims "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." Such a universal reach may sound overly ambitious. But it makes more sense in the light of Google's unimaginable strides through modern technology.

In October 2008, during intensive strategic planning for World Bible

School, we formulated the following Mission Statement: "To share Jesus with the world's lost by motivating and

equipping a global network of Christians to use interactive Bible studies effectively."

This mission statement's scope might seem grandiose, too. But God is so great that the globe is tiny in His mighty palm. Already, He has given giant strides for WBS through many everyday members a truly "global network." Now, throw into the providential mix the world-shrinking developments on which Google depends. The result is so significant that *WBS Technology* is 2009's special emphasis.

After two years of intensive preparation and investment, we are ready to announce an entirely new generation of delivery and interaction for Bible teaching through WBS Internet and related tools. Watch as *Action!* unveils dimension after dimension in 2009. Marvelous as each module is, not one is about 'wowing' anyone. Each is about fulfilling the mission. This is also true for technologies we develop to enhance postal teaching, which remains by far our greatest outreach.

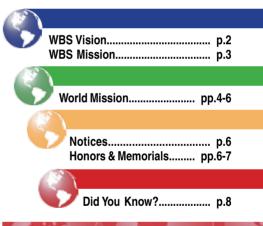
People from virtually every nation enroll for WBS courses through search

Mission Statement: "To share Jesus with the world's lost..."

courses through search engines such as Google and Yahoo, hence our catch-phrase "Yahoo to Yahweh." Now notice, on page 2, *which nation*

has stayed well in the lead—even before we launch new broadband offerings for sophisticated societies. This great nation adds to the excitement unfolding for 2009. Since you will want every issue, subscribe now to receive *Action!* at your home address, and enroll your friends and church leaders. Please fulfill your personal part in this "global network" for a mission that truly matters.

In This Issue:





WBS' Vision

Transforming the world through God's disciples with the Good News of Jesus.

e at World Bible School get to experience the transformation of the world before our very eyes. Actually, we should say, "transformation of the world *map*." In downtown Abilene, Texas, our WBS office has monitors that display maps of the entire world. On the screens, lights flash up in location after location, showing where people are enrolling on-line for WBS courses at that moment, that is, in nearly real

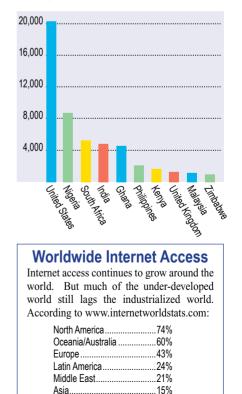
time. How fascinating to watch this flashing, moving, ever-refreshing display, realizing that each light reflects a seeking soul in the process of finding! There, in Saudi Arabia, is another person becoming a Bible student. There, in China, is another. And there in Singapore... Australia... Peru... Fiji... Italy... Canada... Gabon... flash after flash, place after place, literally worldwide! Most fascinating is where the sparks keep clustering. North America lights up most consistently, specifically across the United States. This American pattern emerged some time ago, and has led in shaping our strategies. The extra resources for new developments necessarily limited Internet advertising in 2008. Nevertheless, during that year, significant numbers continued to flow in. Here, in ranked order, are the top enrolling countries for 2008. These figures prove the potential that we plan to realize.

Top Nations for WBS Internet

This chart shows the top nations that enrolled during 2008 via the Web for World Bible School courses. Enrollees choose whether to have their Bible lessons sent by electronic means or by postal means. The number selecting each is about equal for most nations, including

the U.S.A. Asian nations tend to be slightly more weighted toward electronic delivery, and African nations toward postal. The 2008 statistics are similar to 2007 as advertising remained limited due to the heavy demands of developing new delivery systems for Internet and related technologies. With your help in covering costs, we anticipate much more Internet advertising in 2009.

	Nation	Enrollments
	United States	20,566
	Nigeria	
	South Africa	5,204
۲	India	4,551
*	Ghana	4,312
	The Philippines	1,973
	Kenya	1,685
	United Kingdom	1,391
(*	Malaysia	1,147
	Zimbabwe	



.5%

21%

Africa

World Total

WBS' Mission

To share Jesus with the world's lost by motivating and equipping a global network of Christians to use interactive Bible studies effectively.

hat makes World Bible School unique? YOU! As best we can discover, no other religious group in the world has an equivalent to WBS. True, many groups offer literature and Internet lessons. But *the pool of teachers* makes the difference. Typical groups depend on their denominational

offices, which have inherent limits depending on their staff sizes and budgets. But churches of Christ use a different model. YOU, the everyday member, make up the ever-expandable teacher and follow-up pool—a veritable "global network"! The WBS method and lessons are simple enough that virtually



Above & Beyond by Kevin Rhodes

Vision...to see waaay out there.

My family recently visited an observatory while on vacation. Gigantic telescopes—among the largest in the world—peer into the deep, eerie, limitless space beyond us. We looked through some of them, too. But, alas, that day was just "partly-cloudy" enough to obscure our vision.

As I consider WBS' verbalized vision (quoted on page 2), I think about those huge telescopes. They are wonderfully designed—amazingly simple and dizzyingly complex at the same time. They let us see so much, *so far*. Yet they are apparently just scratching the surface of our God's breathtaking universe.

Our WBS vision seems similar. We attest that it is far-reaching. Way out there. But we realize that our efforts to fulfill



it just barely scratch the surface of our God's breathtaking vision for this world of His. We feel even more inadequate when we watch economic clouds pass overhead that conspire to dim our vision.

We pray that our WBS vision fulfills God's own vision. *For God will prevail*. We trust that the funding will be there for what God has called us to do. Thank you for your generous partnership in the Gospel with WBS throughout this new year.

any member can participate. This applies the Great Commission principle which involves every member in sharing Jesus with the world's lost. We at WBS educate and motivate so that more members like YOU realize the potential at their fingertips. We equip members like YOU with all three types of interactive Bible studies: postal, electronic and face-to-face. Here is a proven way to impact your own region and to reach effectively "into all the world." Make the most of your opportunity—it truly is unique!



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Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

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The Great Challenge

By Tex Williams

One of the most challenging Scriptures in the Bible is found in Mark 16:15. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation." Looking at a map of the world, we can see what a tremendous responsibility the Lord has given His people. The task belongs to all Christians, even though not every person can leave their homeland for the Gospel.

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There are many ways that Christians can have a part in fulfilling the commission to go into all the world. For example, every Christian home should have a map of the world on view. Special prayers could be offered on behalf of various nations, and especially for the evangelism of those nations. Paul confirmed such when he wrote in Colossians 4:2-3, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Chri st..."

Christians can also impact the world through efforts such as World Bible School. There is a hunger for Good News in many parts of the world. Using postal and Internet systems, WBS has opened thousands and thousands of hearts to an understanding of the Gospel. Many congregations have been established. WBS courses have been translated into other languages and the Gospel continues to spread. But much more needs to be done. Become involved in WBS. Teach lessons or support the program financially and in prayer. There is a world to be won for Christ and every Christian should play a part in some way.

Top Nations for Postal WBS

This chart shows the top nations that enrolled during 2008 for printed courses through the World Bible School office in Cedar Park, Texas. These enrollees chose to study by mail. They are recruited by many methods, including

personal contact, Internet, radio, television, paper advertising, campaigns, and even referral overflows. WBS teachers receive many more enrollments than our office, as conservatively reflected by an estimate in the last column. Enrollments through other offices and other languages are not shown here, meaning that worldwide enrollments are actually higher than shown in this limited chart.

	Nation	Enrollments at Cedar Park	Total
	Zimbabwe		344,892
	Kenya		208,127
*	Ghana		63,416
	U.S.A.		32,640
	Sierra Leone	25,896	84,162
	Nigeria		83,915
	Malawi		80,113
	South Africa		31,860
0	Uganda		10,130





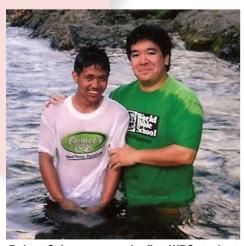
An Example of Receptivity

By Ruth Orr

Three years ago, JoJo and Janet Ramos became Christians through World Bible School and the diligent members in Baguio in the Philippines. The Ramos family desperately wanted the Lord's church started in their hometown of Bokod. This village was completely dominated by a folk Catholicism that still uses animal sacrifices. They asked me to come and teach. I promised to come if they would get something started first. JoJo began by inviting Christian doctors and a dentist to help Bokod with medical and dental services. He then gave out invitations for a ladies' lectureship to be held.

Prissy Sellers and I were met at Manila airport by JoJo's driver who took us the six hours to Baguio, then two hours over beautiful mountains, rivers and waterfalls to Bokod. Ron Potterberg had gone a few days earlier, preparing for our coming and enrolling many students. He and the previous medical mission opened up many doors.

JoJo's great-grandfather had built much of the town. Every morning we climbed the mountains to invite people and to have Bible



Robert Sabongan was the first WBS student to be baptized by JoJo Ramos.

studies. One young mother received the first Bible she ever owned.

She cried and said, "I was always told not to read the Bible, that I could not understand it and the priests would tell me all I needed to know. After reading the Bible, I see how simple it is to understand."



In a Bokod Catholic school, 200 students study WBS lessons. (Ruth Orr is in front.)

One morning a school principal saw us with our WBS shirts and invited us in. He introduced us to the entire student body. They gave us a standing ovation. That afternoon, 25 students brought their answers to the Introduction Lesson. Even the principal signed up to study.



JoJo Ramos baptizes Cosme Galasgas, 89.

Our ladies' lectureship was well attended. Men from Baguio are teaching the men. The village "head" was 89 years old. He came with his wife to study. He remembered the village's first Catholic service 75 years before. It took several Bible studies for him to realize the nature of Christianity has no need for animal sacrifices. He cried as he thanked God. He witnessed the first worship service of the Lord's church in Bokod, with 89 attending. The church began on November 9, 2008. So far 14 have been baptized, and more are expected as the Midtown congregation in Baguio makes regular visits. As JoJo so proudly said, "Thank you Lord, there is no turning back now."

An Example of Networking

By Mark Thiesen

Did you know that Namikango Bible School plays an active role in the ministry of World Bible School in Malawi?



Davis Sauka sorts lessons to send to the WBS office in Cedar Park.

We handle the mail that is sent to teachers in the U.S. by the many thousands of WBS students across Malawi. Because of the high cost of postage for letters to the US, students send their courses to us at a lower domestic rate. Davis Sauka sorts through the tens of thousands of lessons and sends them back to the WBS office in Cedar Park, TX, where they are then distributed to teachers across the country for grading.

Davis has worked with us at Namikango for about a year and we have been impressed with this young man's hard work and passion for lost souls. When he is caught up with his office duties, he makes trips throughout this area of the country to follow up on interested students.

Recently, Ron Pottberg, WBS V.P. for International Relations, visited. Ron helped us strategize to increase the numbers of those we can reach and make our efforts more productive. Before he left, Ron

loaded his suitcases with mail for American teachers.





otice about BRM for Sierra Leone: Teachers, please be aware that the initial cost to purchase the Business Reply Mail (BRM) envelopes for Sierra Leone is five cents each. When the student returns lesson answers in the BRM envelope to the Service Center, the billing cost will be an additional 25 cents each. The reason we have initiated BRM in Sierra Leone is the extreme poverty in that nation. Many students cannot afford the postage to return their answers. The chance of your students returning answers to the Service Center will be far greater if they are provided BRM envelopes. We can help in explaining the BRM dynamics to your budget committee. Experience suggests that student retention will improve by 30% or more. Think about the high cost of sending lessons that never see returns. Compared with that loss, a measurable success rate turns the BRM into a bargain. WBS remains one of the most cost-effective methods anywhere. More than that. when a few cents



flag of Sierra Leone

spent on BRM can help a student get far enough to obey the Gospel, the result is both priceless and eternal.

otice about stamps: Harry Cybulski (2040 Walden Ct., Flint, MI 48532-2421) still collects and saves both U.S. and foreign stamps on behalf of WBS. He collects and sorts the stamps, puts them into packets, and sells them to stamp collectors and then sends the proceeds to WBS. Please save your stamps and forward them to him for this special commitment he has made on behalf of WBS. Harry, many thanks to you for many years of this service.

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An Example of Seeking Hearts (USA)

ur World Bible School students often express hunger for God and His Word. A person from Indiana applied for the WBS courses: "I am on my walk with God. I have no Bible and no way of studying the Lord's Word. I heard that you help people with their growing faith. The Lord is working in my life and the devil is tying to stop Him. I would appreciate any help you can give me. Several other people and I have started a Bible study, but I have nothing to study or use during this Bible study. [Please send WBS courses.]"

In answer to a WBS discussion question, an Arkansan wrote, "I did not know God in past years of my life. I truly believe God sent me to prison to get me off drugs and alcohol and to get my mind clear and focused on Him. I am thankful every day for that because He loved me enough to discipline me and correct me. I love God for that, but I do not like it. This place is miserable. Is that wrong to feel that way? I know in my heart it was the best thing. It was just a matter of time before I OD'd or committed suicide. To my surprise, I was very thankful and relieved to be sent to prison. It was either this or death. God has blessed me by sending me to prison. I truly want with all of my heart to change and give my life to God. I'm

By Hershel and June Walters

just afraid that I will fail again at trying to do right. Are these feelings normal? Could you please give me some advice? My mind and heart are at odds over what I should do."

Another expressed "... a very sincere thank you for the opportunity to learn more about the Bible through WBS. I am greatly anticipating future lessons. I thank the Lord every day that there are wonderful people out there that will take their time to help people that do not even know. The love of God is very wonderful and powerful if only everyone knew about that love."

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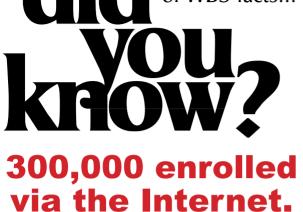
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Brodie Crouch

A continuing series of WBS facts...





hat's a drop in the bucket. There are presently 1.4 billion people in the world that have access to the Internet. People are going online-connecting, communicating, building

relationships, and sharing information. They're also seeking answers and true purpose in life.

WBS will be there, too. We believe that the World Wide Web's highest providential purpose is to speed God's Good News around the globe.



...instantly...all over the world. That's how quickly one can find the Gospel via WBS and technology. Impact Sunday is May 3rd. Request a DVD and packet. Make sure your church participates. Help us reach millions—God speed!

Thirteen years ago, we were one of the first Christian ministries to take advantage of the Internet. We've seen constantly accelerating demand from students



enrolling via technology and to study our



online lessons. 55,000 new students recently enrolled via the Internet over a twelve month period. In 2009, we expect that number to exceed 250.000. WBS is investing \$650,000 to create methods and tools that exploit the latest in Internet technologies

and usage trends-and enroll millions of Bible students. Everyday Christians will be able to "cast the 'Net" more effectively than ever-and to connect with truth-seekers in the ways they want to connect. From Yahoo to Yahweh, WBS is using technology to share Jesus with





a lost world.

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