

Action!



Teaching the Word.
Reaching the World!

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July 2009

PRIORITY

What's yours?

By John Reese

Did you catch that 5•14•2009 news item? Jim Sciutto reported from Durban, South Africa, about “abuse” of the anti-retroviral drug Efavirenz. The USA invests heavily in distributing Efavirenz to treat HIV and AIDS victims in Africa. But black marketers are turning the gift into a powerful addictive. In Sciutto’s words, “The drug they’re smoking is supposed to save lives. Instead, as we witnessed up close, it’s ruining them.” Worse than the waste, worse than the perversion, worse than the immediate harm, could be the long-term disaster. Smoking Efavirenz exposes HIV to small but non-lethal doses, allowing the virus to develop resistance. The next AIDS epidemic could be far worse, with no effective drug to counter it. The article concludes, “The cemeteries of South Africa are already crowded with victims of HIV. Now, a new danger is threatening to put the country’s best defense up in smoke.”

Sciutto failed to mention this story’s moral: the priority lesson. You can throw billions in dollars, drugs and aid at human problems. But the greatest problem of all is the perverse human heart. The greatest need is for God’s grace to free enslaved lives. That is as true for ordinary people as it is for hardened crooks. “I tell you the truth,” insists Jesus, “everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). Sin is the ultimate addiction, the soul’s worst disease, and the world’s deadliest pandemic.

Tighter economies sharpen focus on priorities. What stays and what gets cut? Do we keep our buildings and fancy furnishings, while axing missionaries? Do we hire preaching for our few, while neglecting billions who never once hear the saving Gospel? Do aid projects flourish, while directly evangelistic efforts flounder for lack of volunteers and resources?

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See Jimmie
Lovell on
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To see what we mean, read Jimmie Lovell's insight from 1974 which was entitled, "Where Have We Been All of Our Lives?" Jimmie's priority reminds us that, in this deadly world, Jesus remains "the way and the truth and the

life." People who receive help, but not Him, remain lost in lies and in the worst kind of helplessness. We want helps like Efavirenz for sufferers. Even more passionately, we want every sufferer and sinner to know "the

Living One." He gives the best help, and with it, eternal life. He is the First and the Last. His Good News is the Top Priority, without which all other priorities ultimately "go up in smoke." 

Jimmie Lovell on Priorities



Adapted
Action
editorial
from
March
1974

Of course I believe in feeding the poor, ministering to the sick, caring for the aged and orphan—this is "pure religion" (James 1:27). This Scripture has no meaning to the non-Christian. A person out of Christ could spend his entire life visiting the fatherless and widows but it would not be to him pure religion. Before any man can be credited, so far as the destiny of his soul is concerned, he must first be in Christ. It is there that he must do all of these good works of mercy

and righteousness of which the Bible is full.

Yes, I believe in helping others with food, medical care, a place to live and so on—I could give every penny I have on such right in my own community. But Christ came for even a greater purpose—to seek the lost and save them from eternal death, and this is the cause for which I am placing my emphasis—all my energy and my possessions. Each of us must make up his own mind as to what he feels is the most important. In mine, it is that man must be born again else he has no chance no matter how much good he does.

In WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL we are presenting an opportunity for those of us in the church, who are supposed to be the light of the world and salt of the earth, to preach the Gospel and do so from our living rooms, not just from our pulpits. We are showing how every one of us may go without waiting for the unsaved to come to our buildings.

We might all wonder where we have been all our lives. I certainly do, especially when WBS shows how simply and cost effectively we can impact so many souls. There are thousands, even millions, begging for us to teach them about Christ. I sit here wondering why I did not have sense enough to see this tremendous opportunity years ago. Was I too dumb to see it or didn't I want to see it? In all fairness I will have to apply the same question to the church in America as a whole, with all of her great leaders. About the only answer that comes through clearly is this: We are all too busy building up local situations which are 90% more for the comforts and satisfaction of ourselves. The day has come when some drastic changes must be made if we stand approved before our Lord in the judgment. The change I am now talking about is the attention, time, money, preaching, teaching, and luxuries we

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The Story Behind My Praise

by Inez Sullivan

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! For God alone is truly worthy to be praised!

In my time of need, the Lord placed World Bible School and Madison St. church in my path to help me through one of my life's hardest experiences. Through the love and friendship of WBS I better understand God's love, mercy, grace, word, will and plans for my

life—glory to God! Through the teachings of WBS, my walk with Jesus has become the most important thing in my life. Through WBS lessons, I am able to share the word of God the right way. As I tell my story, I pray that all who read it will be inspired to press on through every storm of life.

There was a time when I was lost in a world of darkness and pain. I had money and drugs, along with all the friends I could buy. Yes, I

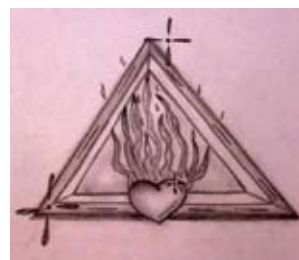
was up there. But I never forgot the teachings of Jesus I learned as a child. So I left the fast-money game, and turned away from life at the top. Satan saw me turn so he launched his biggest attack. Although four years earlier I had turned away from the world, in 2006 I was charged with second degree murder of a young woman I didn't even know.

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As Inez progressed through WBS lessons, she drew her growing feelings of hope.



Kindling



Blaze



Fire



Rescue from Child Slavery



By Sheryl Williams

Some of us ask, "Where shall we eat tonight?" Many in Africa ask, "Which of my children will I feed today?" Mark Kwadwo's mother was desperate. Thinking Mark would be treated well, she sold him to a fishing master from Volta Lake, Ghana. Mark, then five, was terrified. He learned quickly to obey the master or be beaten. The slave children slept briefly on damp, dirt floors. They were awakened at midnight for work. Mark's first morning, he was forced into the master's leaky canoe and taken out on the lake. He didn't know how to swim. He baled for hours while the master and his slaves cast nets for fish. Back at shore the exhausted children had to mend nets. Finally,

after 14 hours of fishing and mending, the child-slaves were given their only meal of the day: kenkye, a fermented hominy mush.

For more than a year, little Mark Kwadwo served as a slave to Kwadwo Takyi on Volta Lake. Gone were the days of playing and laughing. It was a terrible and lonely time for Mark.

In 2006, Pam and Randy Cope learned of Mark's slavery from the *New York Times*. Of that story, Pam said, "My heart was on the floor. That article was so powerful. We looked at each other and [thought], 'We've got to do something.'" They researched, then raised money that redeemed Mark and six other slave children just before Christmas.

Oprah Winfrey read that same newspaper, and organized a rescue. Eventually her reporter discovered Pam's success. Pam was

interviewed on TV by Oprah, who said, "Never has anybody deserved a standing ovation more than you today."

Also featured was Ghana's Village of Hope, where the children were taken for abundant food, real beds, clothing, shelter, spiritual blessing and loving care. They were welcomed by Fred Asare, VOH's uniquely qualified director.

Years before, Jesus reached a young Fred through World Bible School. WBS campaigns led him into ever-greater evangelism and humanitarian service for the deaf and orphans. Fred says, "I cannot even begin to imagine what my life would have been without WBS. It is all by God's grace and providence, but the tool God chose to use was WBS. What I am today and how far I have come all began with WBS." Fred's life is devoted to caring for rescued children. Now Mark, Hagar (his sister), Richard, John, Kofi, Kojo and Sarah happily are called "The Magnificent Seven"!



Above & Beyond
by Kevin Rhodes

Help WBS provide...

That's what Sheryl's poignant article, *Above & Beyond*, is about: *hope*. Hope for hungry kids, forced into dismal circumstances. Hope in an African children's home, founded upon the love of Jesus Christ. Hope for a young Ghanaian teenager, seeking the Truth and a new life in Christ. Hope of a life calling that extends hope to others.

Hope is what WBS is about, too. We offer the hope, the Good News, of the Bible through our interactive Bible studies, both printed and Web-based. With WBS, truth-seekers can learn and take hold of eternal, spiritual hope, while everyday Christian "study helpers" encourage them along.

This summer, we are eager to welcome Fred Asare, of Ghana's Village of Hope, to Austin. He will be joining us at our annual **WBS benefit dinner, July 20th**, dedicated to illustrating how WBS is providing "hope for the hopeless." Guests will hear Fred's personal testimony, amazing stories of evangelism, and the latest big news about how technology is opening new doors for fulfilling the Great Commission. Truly, we have astounding opportunities before us for sharing the hope that we have in God! If you have interest in helping us plan and host a WBS dinner in your area, let us know. Help us get the word out about WBS—and *the Word* out to the hopeless.

HOPE

for the hopeless.

Action!

EDITOR John Reese

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WORLD MISSION

Master Series Completed in Portuguese

In February 2003, then WBS president Tex Williams and Brazilian missionary Charley Huffman had a grand vision. They foresaw a Portuguese version of WBS' Master Series made available in print and on-line. But first would come the daunting tasks of translation, layout and production. Charley and his Brazilian co-workers set to work with faith and determination, driven by great love for all who can learn in Portuguese. In addition to Brazil, target countries include former Portuguese colonies Mozambique and Angola. These two African nations have suffered decades of warfare but are now more open, and hungry for the Good News.

Here is the gist of an email by John Reese, current WBS president, sent 5.20.09:

Hi Charley,

We recently received supplies of WBS courses in Portuguese, brought to us by Nathan Holland and my son Danny, who also brought the Angolans Charles Kambungo and André Banda to visit us here in Austin. This was our first opportunity to see the latest courses you have produced: A



Danny and Katie Reese, Nathan Holland, Robert Meyer with Angolans Charles Kambungo and Andre Banda



Kambungo, Banda and J. Reese show WBS courses in Portuguese.

Familia De Deus and Viva Uma Vida De Amor [Family of God and Live a Life of Love].

Congratulations on these courses that, like the previous booklets, are excellent products. Great job, well done! We have some idea of the amount of work and focus on detail that such an accomplishment takes. Please accept our sincere thanks, and also pass our thanks on to others who worked on this great project.

The courses are already being put to good use. Charles Kambungo will become a WBS teacher inside Angola, beginning by using these courses as correspondence with Angolan church leaders. We give God glory also for the fact that these two courses bring to completion the full Master series, even before Spanish and French managed to do so despite an earlier start.

I know Tex will be thrilled to learn of the completed product. I appreciate so much your combined vision that initiated and now has brought to completion a truly gigantic and momentous undertaking. Thank you again, and glory to God!

Within minutes Tex replied, "I am thrilled with the news.... I know that many souls will be reached."

Charles Kambungo was himself a WBS student of Chuck Cromwell of Lubbock. Kambungo now works on oil rigs off Angola's coast, but was converted as a refugee in Zambia by missionaries there, including Namwianga's Leonard Mujala.

Nathan Holland and Danny Reese are part of the first team from American churches of Christ about to enter Angola. Currently they are raising support for this ground-breaking mission. Please pass this news on to all who share a special heart for the Lusophone World (Portuguese-speaking nations). Please also recruit Portuguese readers, including former missionaries, to serve as the correspondence teaching base—along with our Brazilian brethren—for Portuguese course enrollments, which will proliferate as news of these WBS courses spreads.



Switzerland: Shepherds & Deacons Appointed

By Doyle Kee

Sunday, November 16, 2008, was historic for the church of Christ in Geneva, Switzerland. The members chose four men to serve as their shepherds. During a special service of thanksgiving for God's gifts, Andy Mychalowyez, Esteban Ruiz, Angel Panzano, and Mark Kee were recognized as



Mychalowyez, Ruiz, Panzano & Mark Kee

church servants in the role of elders. After an explication of their charge by Doyle Kee, the assembly surrounded the four brothers to bless them and to confirm their commitment to follow them as shepherds.





This important transition followed a good period of preparation. A group of seven brethren taught the church on the qualifications and duties of both the elders and the church. They set up the process for selection of possible candidates. Four were retained by a strong majority of the church. They expressed their desire, and were confirmed November 16. The four elders then prepared the congregation for deacons, which appointment culminated in February 2009. These four, Luigi Preite, Doyle Kee, Camille Ruz, and François Aebi, have responsibilities over four work areas for reaching the lost and edifying the members.

Editor's Note: *Switzerland is proving a key to Francophone evangelism. Write to Doyle at TheKees@bluewin.ch for the French World Missions e-report. As a sample, here is an adapted article on Swiss inroads into Muslim territory.*

Chad and Cameroon

Doyle Kee from Geneva and Olivier Cuendet, evangelist with the church in Zurich, Switzerland, traveled to N'Djamena, Chad and Maroua, principle city of northern Cameroon. Our contact was Boïdo, converted earlier through correspondence and an evangelist there for 20 years. We witnessed three baptisms, students of World Bible School taught by Jean Boïdo.



Olivier Cuendet, Jérémie D'ganzo (convert through WBS), & Doyle Kee

In N'Djamena we trained 12 men, members mostly contacted and converted through French WBS. They reflect a larger work around Chad's second largest city, Moundou, with evangelist Feltoing Djonga. Through World Radio and WBS hundreds of contacts are being followed-up in southern Chad. Help is needed for WBS materials, Bibles and follow-up literature for both regions.



114 Obey Gospel!

By Doug Wheeler

It was a great privilege—yes, a privilege!—for me to travel to Nigeria this year to preach the Gospel of Christ with good Nigerian preachers of the Lord's church. I never take for granted a trip like this, for there is much that can go wrong. But all went well. I preached daily on my trip (January 28 – April 14), worked in 14 of the 18 states in Southern Nigeria, conducted about 50 World Bible School seminars,



Doug Wheeler with Agofure family, Delta State

taught in six Leadership Seminars with my co-workers, Sylvester Imogoh and Monday John Akpakpan, did door-knocking in some of the villages, and witnessed 114 souls obey the Gospel of Christ on this mission trip. We also were able to enroll thousands into WBS lessons. The success of this trip is the result of your prayers, your support and the great effort of local Nigerian brethren involved in the work's planning and execution.

"The Great Workshop 2009" seemed to me to be the best that we have ever had, based on the numbers attending and the lesson content of our 12 selected speakers. This year, 445 attendees registered, the most ever! I was proud of our host congregation and preacher this year—the Onikokoro church of Christ in Ibadan, Oyo State, and her minister, Makinde Olufemi. Other Americans who were a part of this year's workshop were Ron Pottberg, Ruth Orr and Anita Davidson. These three brethren



Patrick, John, Sylvester, Monday John & Makinde



Evangelist Michael Bassey Ubi with baptism candidates

spent weeks in Ghana, then spent weeks in Nigeria. They do a great work for Christ in their respective ministries, one of which is the follow-up of WBS students in these countries.

Editor's Note—As a glimpse of "their respective ministries," here is the gist of an email from Ruth, sent 5.14.09: "Of the 50 Muslims we are studying with in Lagos, Nigeria, 45 have been baptized as of this morning. Two more Catholic priests have been baptized as of this week, bringing the total to five priests and four nuns. The former priests will all enter NCS, our Abeokuta training college. We had over 200 baptisms the last two months."



The Story Behind My Praise from page 2



Inez Sullivan

As I sat in jail, lonely and confused, I believe with all my heart Jesus was right beside me. He is the only one who can take something meant for evil and use it for good. He never leaves us hopeless. With the help of Christians at WBS, I received the knowledge I needed to gain wisdom from God and the strength to endure each test or trial. This wisdom also enables me to share the Lord's true words with others going through similar circumstances. All we need to complete life's journey is found in the Holy Bible, "a lamp to my feet, a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Feeding on God's word every day is the best way to start my day. No matter what a day may bring, we can always make it through with Jesus' help. He's always just a prayer away. Thank You, Lord!

I also thank all my brothers and sisters of WBS and Madison St. church of Christ here in Clarksville, TN. We Christians at WBS are here to help you.



Internet Teachers: Sharing Ministry, Sharing Costs

By Kit Lawson

In the 18th century, the scientist Sir Isaac Newton got it right when he expanded our understanding of the universe with his Three Laws of Motion.

Today, in the 21st century, World Bible School is expanding how the church can evangelize using the Internet. WBS has created an intersection for the culture, the teachers, the seekers, and the methods in the new *myWBS 2.0*. From the basis of the reliable, proven Postal method, WBS is enhancing its 14-year Email ministry and broadening its Internet missions through innovative Web-based evangelism.

Through recent years, WBS Postal teachers have helped fund one-quarter of the worldwide WBS ministry by paying for printed courses.

With the release of *myWBS 2.0* in July, WBS will augment this practice by asking Email teachers to join in with the Postal teachers. They will lend a hand to sustain the Internet ministry with a shared cost of \$10 a month.

WBS has absorbed the costs of the Internet program through the years of consistent growth. Today the ministry is truly global, enrolling students from every nation in the world (with more than half who enroll via the Web living in the U.S.). WBS is devoted to equipping Christians to fulfill the demand for Bible studies and meet students' on-line learning expectations.

Having already produced baptism requests from Web students from America to Africa, *myWBS* has evolved beyond an idea for the future into a mature ministry that touches thousands of lives each day.

Reuel Lemmons, director of WBS in the mid-80s, got it right, too. He said, "We can't

do this work in a half-hearted way. We have to give it all we've got. We are engaged in a work that any Christian who can read and write English can do. No excuses. If you want to save a soul, you can." He concluded the 1984 *Action* article with, "We are all in this work together. It is just as much your work as mine.... I will contribute my time just as you do. I will contribute my money, just as Jimmie [Lovell] contributed his, and you contribute yours. These souls must be saved and the Lord has nobody to do the job but us."

WBS will continue to help you do the job by providing postal, email and Web means for sharing the Good News. It's still

true: if you want to save a soul, you can.

For more information on myWBS Email Teacher cost sharing, see the blog—That's It!—<http://my.worldbibleschool.org/blogs/thatsit/costsharing>.



Cost sharing lets Email teachers join Postal teachers in helping support WBS.

Tips for Teachers!

What Happened To My Students?

Despite hundreds of pounds of World Bible School mail flowing to and from Zimbabwe, we receive occasional calls asking why students are not replying. Tracing the factors is not easy, but a recent email from Alice Mhlanga sheds light on some situations. She writes, "Remember, school postal boxes are there not to serve the school alone but the community where the school is situated. We know what happened when things became [financially] tight. The staff at schools could not afford transport to and from post offices, so they were not collecting mail. Some schools could not afford post office box rentals so the boxes were/are closed.... When Ed Mosby was here, he was concerned about the outcome of Introduction lessons they [Cloverdale church] sent to a school in Chinhoyi but never got any returns. I contacted our Chinhoyi brethren who enquired and found out that the school failed to pay their post office box rentals and, thus, the box had been closed." Severely impoverished

regions have such problems. Yet we should not be discouraged since hundreds of thousands are receiving lessons. The worldwide economic downturn is hitting some developing countries far worse than America. Students find it harder to return their answers. Here is a call for prayer and patience, and for helping WBS' efforts to let the poor continue their Bible studies.



Jimmie Lovell on Priorities from page 2

have for ourselves as against the very little that we do in behalf of the souls of others.

My brothers, in this thing we recently named WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL, we are into something BIG, and every penny and more of it has to do with eternity. Do not get the idea that all of it is just for others—our own souls are equally involved. It will bring not only happiness to you in a work you can do but renewed hope. Let us show you how to get started no matter where you have been all your life.

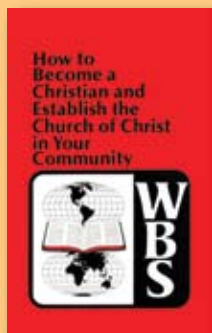


The AIDS tract entitled *Do You Know Someone with AIDS? You Can Help.* has been reprinted and is available for purchase at 15 cents each plus shp.



The popular booklet *How to Become a Christian and Establish... has been reprinted and is available at 45 cents each plus shp. Reward your students by giving them a WBS embroidered patch. The cost of the patch (also called the emblem) is 35*

cents each plus shp. For all orders, or for the complete brochure on WBS offerings and prices, please phone toll free 877-393-0211.





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JUST A REMINDER:

November is the last issue of *Action!* for the year. If you want to make a tribute for someone you love for the holiday season, these will need to be in by October 10, 2009.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

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 _____

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Church (optional) _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

Mr. _____
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A continuing series of WBS facts...

WBS students are in over 200 countries.

Literally, our students can now be found in *every nation on earth*. We've been close to that lofty target for a long time. But as of *now* you can compare the country list of WBS students to the United Nations' list and mark off *each and every country*.

Our new Web Courses have crowned this achievement. We knew when we "threw the

switch" for the new Web-based study offering that the demand would be strong. Within two minutes we had visitors from New Zealand, China, India, and the United Arab



Emirates. Moments later, students *enrolled* in Canada, South Africa, and a far away place called Spring, Texas. Within 105 days of the launch, students had enrolled from 100 countries. Throw in our traditional postal courses and email courses, and the country count for WBS students soars higher.

Imagine reaching into the very heart of Buddhism, Communism, Islam. How exciting! And what about the USA? Most Web Course enrollments come from this great nation. With you, we're reaching our fellow countrymen, even as we literally "go into all the world."



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Your best years: golden harvests!



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