

Action!



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

Volume 77, Number 1

January 2012

WHAT'S NEW?

Exclusive Breaking News for 2012!



John Reese

Welcome to 2012! This year marks a strong sense of renewal at World Bible School. Look for examples of NEW initiatives throughout this issue.

Other examples—The

Scanning Pilot and the Shared Teaching Pilot—cannot be unveiled yet since they currently are being tested and verified. We can, however, share with you our Strategic Planning's three major avenues of advancement:

1) **More USA emphasis**, with new and larger goals. WBS Connect continues to press forward. We are also exploring a continent-wide campaign. With how many new seekers could we connect if hundreds of congregations saturated target areas with Gospel teaching? What would it do for domestic missions if each congregation had two American targets: its local area *and* a mission area? What if each congregation used the outreach materials and methods of its own choice? What would such a joint—and yet fully flexible—national campaign do for soul-saving, morale and church growth? For a concept document for

your thought and prayer, please email John Reese john@worldbibleschool.net.

2) **More African emphasis**. WBS has recruited over 500,000 WBS students in Zimbabwe. The recruiting and follow-up are the work of national members. Their partnership with American WBS teachers has proved highly productive. These best practices should be applied in nation after nation—including Africa's Muslim nations. For 40 years, WBS has proved a major force, helping churches of Christ in Nigeria, Ghana and Malawi to number over 4,000 each. There is every reason to believe this momentum can be duplicated in many new nations.

3) **Prepare for Asian emphasis**. We are teaming up with World English Institute to develop English learning to attract more Asians into Bible studies. Jonathan Towell has started building Internet outreach for Asia and other regions that find English attractive.

Join us on these new adventures. By God's grace, WBS is positioned to impact significant populations *powerfully*. With His blessing and your partnership, many precious individuals will enjoy the new birth and its life-changing benefits!



In This Issue:



New Intro..... p. 2
Next Level for WBS-WEI..... p. 2
Above & Beyond..... p. 3



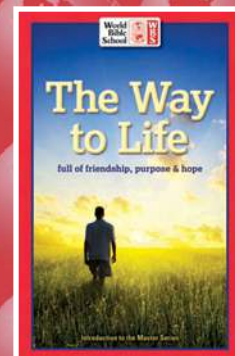
Tributes..... p. 4
Renewing Focus..... p. 5



Tips for Teachers..... p. 6
New Transitions..... p. 6
New Works in Liberia..... p. 7



Invitation to Workshop..... p. 8
Upcoming..... p. 8



New Intro
See
page 2.

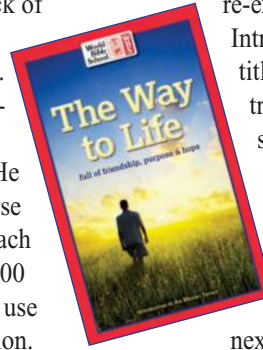
New Intro

At World Bible School, we seek a culture of improvement that is willing to reevaluate assumptions.

Apart from that which is divinely inspired, we try not to have “sacred cows.” Take for example the WBS Introduction Lesson. What used to be an aerogram has evolved through several major upgrades, leading to the familiar *The Way to Life* that has served well for six years. However, Rich Shur (WBS Representative for Eastern U.S.A.) challenged the Introduction Lesson’s role. Its purpose had been perceived as two-fold: attract new prospects into taking the WBS courses and filter out those so poorly

motivated as to waste the teachers’ limited resources. As with all correspondence methods, many start but relatively few complete. The reasons are many, including lack of commitment or means, lack of English or reading ability, theological differences, and so on.

Where most of us saw a regrettable but normal problem, Rick saw an opportunity to be seized. He pressed his point: “Our teachers use 1,000,000 Introduction Lessons each year. That should become 1,000,000 presentations of the Gospel. Let’s use the Intro to tell more about salvation. Then teachers can have the satisfaction of knowing that, even if answers are not returned, readers have received the *opportunity* to learn the Gospel and respond.”



Concurrent with Rick’s challenge is our determination to produce the best distribution piece toward evangelizing America—or any part of the world. The result was a complete re-examination and revision. The new Introduction Lesson keeps the same title and the best elements for attracting people, while expanding its salvation message through Isaiah 53 and Acts 8. Its primary purpose is to lead into further Bible studies, but it can serve also as a stand-alone piece to share the Gospel. More details will follow in the next *Action!* In the meantime, order your own sample—or better yet an entire box (about 800)—for your WBS teaching or for local and mission distribution. To order, phone 877-393-0211.



Next Level for WBS–WEI Partnership



Dick and Maudine Ady receive Christian Service Award from Dr. David Burks, President of Harding University. Dr. Burks also serves on the WBS Board of Directors.

World Bible School and World English Institute have common roots and purposes. They already enjoy a fine spirit of partnership, which now moves to the next level. After years of preparatory talks, WEI President Dick Ady and WBS President John Reese signed an agreement, September 2011, to share source code for closer convergence of their Internet efforts. These and other aspects of cooperation are important as WBS looks ahead to developing English as an attraction for recruiting many more students in Asia, Europe, the Americas and beyond. WEI’s Internet leaders Bob and Jan Towell have developed excellent tools with the technical expertise of their grandson Jonathan Towell. With WEI’s full approval, WBS now supports Jonathan fully to continue WBS and WEI development, with strong emphasis on efficiency, cost-effectiveness and user-friendliness. The results of the new agreement have powerful implications for world evangelism’s future. In the meantime, WBS and WEI continue to share a number of the same teachers and targets—as exemplified by one of their most prolific Internet teachers K. Haddad. Please read her stories for perspectives on present effectiveness and future potential.



From Mohammed to Christ

By K. Haddad

Thousands of Muslims have been taught by World Bible School and World English Institute. WBS reaches those specifically interested in the Bible. WEI reaches others whose primary interest is learning English but who are willing to read the Bible in the process. Here are examples of three Muslims (names altered) from different countries in the Middle East.

FARUKH was given his first Bible. He and another Muslim friend dared to read it. It spoke so much of love. Such a contrast to Islam. He explains, “Allah is a god with orders to oppress or kill, a god who asks people to send their sons out to blow themselves up

and kill innocent people for his pleasure.” Farukh’s Bible-reading was reported to the Muslim government. His friend was killed, and they are still looking for Farukh to kill him, too. One day while surfing the Internet for a Bible course, Farukh ran across WBS. He enrolled and consumed the lessons hungrily. Six months later, he was immersed for the forgiveness of his sins. He has a wife and two children.

OMAR is a professor. Violence between Jews and Arabs frustrated him. He decided against Islam and Judaism, and chose to investigate Christianity. Upon surfing the Internet, he found WBS and enrolled. He asked

about Mary (Muslims believe that, since Catholics call Mary the “mother of God,” the Trinity is God, Jesus, and Mary). He asked about Jesus’ death and resurrection (Muslims believe Allah made Judas look like Jesus and it was Judas who was crucified, for Allah would not let his prophet Jesus suffer). Then he asked about the church. Finally, Omar decided to be baptized. He taught his wife and she believed also. He wrote his teacher, “Let me do these things secretly, otherwise I will be ruined or jailed at least.” A few days later he wrote, “I will do the baptism in a

continued on page 8



Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

Aristotle: Ancient Giving Expert

“To give away money is an easy matter and in anyone’s power. But to decide to whom to give it, how much to give, and to give with the right motive and in the right way, is neither in everyone’s power nor an easy matter. Hence, it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble.”

Who knew? Aristotle, a quotable expert on *philanthropy*. Of course, he’s right. Appropriate giving in the right way to the right recipient is not “an easy matter.” It’s not “a slam dunk,” in my rather non-Aristotelian (real word) jargon. But when it all comes together, it is truly “praiseworthy” and “noble.”

That reminds me of you who support World Bible School. What a blessing you are! The New Year always reminds us just how much we depend on your generous partnership in the Gospel.

We step into 2012 and beyond with big plans, some of which John has introduced on page 1. We’re talking some *really big* things, that are building upon some things that are already pretty big. Remember



what we say? *There’s nothing like World Bible School.* No other ministry reaches so many souls, with so many everyday Christians, so cost-effectively.

Our mission is to continue doing just that, but reaching *more*, involving *more*, and doing *more* as good stewards.

Please continue your support. WBS wants to be the ministry to which giving can be “an easy matter,” to which you can give with the utmost confidence. Together, your financial support and WBS’ ministry can demonstrate “excellence [that] is rare, praiseworthy, and noble”—to the glory of God.



Be on the lookout for this logo. It will be a constant reminder of how WBS is moving forward, building on God-given success and prayerful expectations. Come along with us. Grab a hammer! We’re building on the Rock!

Action!

Editor: John Reese

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Renewing Focus



Jay Jarboe at GMC Conference

By Jay Jarboe

The Global Missions Conference is held every three years.

It likely is the largest such joint effort by American churches of Christ to promote world missions.

It is coordinated, in collaboration with many churches and ministries, by Missions Resource Network. In 2011 it was held at the Legacy church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.

Under the theme, *Into the Heart of God*, approximately 1,300 church leaders, members, missionaries, potential missionaries, college students and mission leaders attended the conference. In the spirit of unity and cooperation, their involvement helped to

advance renewed focus upon reaching our nation, and all nations, for Jesus Christ. More than 31 sponsors helped to underwrite the cost of conducting this global event, over 100 presenters challenged attendees, and more than 70 exhibitors created an environment of networking and collaboration, offering resources to enhance more effective global missions.

Editor's Note: WBS enjoyed two full hours of workshop track: a Think Tank for sharing best practices and ideas, and a "What's New?" workshop about the latest WBS tools. About 30 from across the nation participated, including WBS players from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Indonesia and France. Such valuable interaction suggests regional workshops.

Several of us at GMC, including Howard Norton, went on immediately to the Abundant



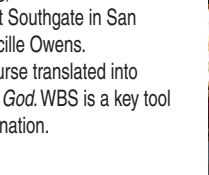
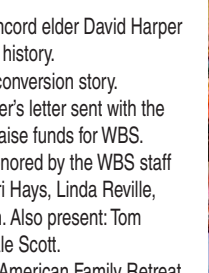
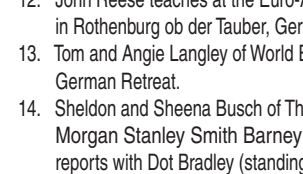
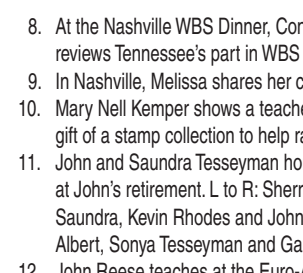
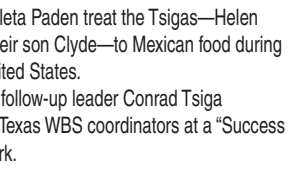
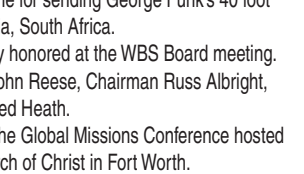
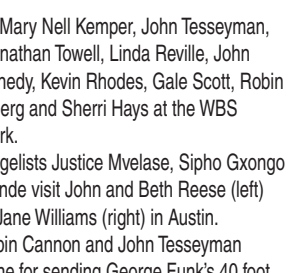
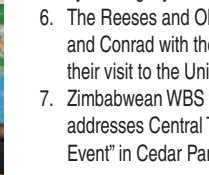
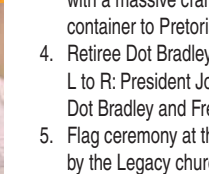
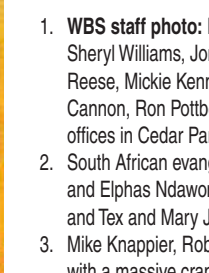
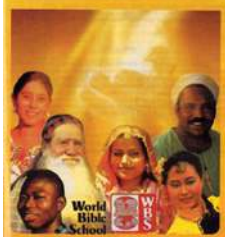
Abundant Living participants led in song by Leon Sanderson, Jr.

Living Retreat in Branson, MO. The Retreat motivates and engages retirees for all forms of Kingdom service. I was on a panel of involvement ministries, and also spoke to the men's session. Sign up for the Abundant Living magazine by writing to 915 E. Market Ave., #12280, Searcy, AR 72149-5615. Attend the 2012 Retreat at Branson on Oct. 9-12, immediately followed by "Church of Christ Weekend" at Silver Dollar City. Email Kay Gowen gowen@harding.edu or phone 501-279-4055.



1 WBS

KELUARGA 16 ALLAH



WBS World News

1. WBS staff photo: Mary Nell Kemper, John Tesseyman, Sheryl Williams, Jonathan Towell, Linda Reville, John Reese, Mickie Kennedy, Kevin Rhodes, Gale Scott, Robin Cannon, Ron Pottberg and Sherri Hays at the WBS offices in Cedar Park.
2. South African evangelists Justice Mvelase, Siphon Gxongo and Elphas Ndawonde visit John and Beth Reese (left) and Tex and Mary Jane Williams (right) in Austin.
3. Mike Knappier, Robin Cannon and John Tesseyman with a massive crane for sending George Funk's 40 foot container to Pretoria, South Africa.
4. Retiree Dot Bradley honored at the WBS Board meeting. L to R: President John Reese, Chairman Russ Albright, Dot Bradley and Fred Heath.
5. Flag ceremony at the Global Missions Conference hosted by the Legacy church of Christ in Fort Worth.
6. The Reeses and Oleta Paden treat the Tsigas—Helen and Conrad with their son Clyde—to Mexican food during their visit to the United States.
7. Zimbabwean WBS follow-up leader Conrad Tsigas addresses Central Texas WBS coordinators at a "Success Event" in Cedar Park.
8. At the Nashville WBS Dinner, Concord elder David Harper reviews Tennessee's part in WBS history.
9. In Nashville, Melissa shares her conversion story.
10. Mary Nell Kemper shows a teacher's letter sent with the gift of a stamp collection to help raise funds for WBS.
11. John and Sandra Tesseyman honored by the WBS staff at John's retirement. L to R: Sherri Hays, Linda Reville, Sandra, Kevin Rhodes and John. Also present: Tom Albert, Sonya Tesseyman and Gale Scott.
12. John Reese teaches at the Euro-American Family Retreat in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany.
13. Tom and Angie Langley of World English Institute at the German Retreat.
14. Sheldon and Sheena Busch of The Busch Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney review investment reports with Dot Bradley (standing) and Gale Scott.
15. Harold Smith, WBS coordinator at Southgate in San Antonio, honors WBS teacher Viricile Owens.
16. Steve Cate unveiled the latest course translated into Bahasa Indonesia, *The Family of God*. WBS is a key tool for Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation.



Tips for Teachers!

Launch of Newsletter for WBS Teachers

Real estate in *Action!* is limited and in high demand. Any given issue cannot possibly pass along to you all the latest stories, announcements and tips that deserve attention. You may recall that *Action!*, as edited by Jimmie Lovell, Reuel Lemmons and Tex Williams, was published every month except June and December. For economic reasons, the new *Action!* went to six issues per year. One result was that *Tips for Teachers*, while still given a high priority, actually had less opportunity to meet all the needs of WBS teachers for up-to-date information.

By way of remedy, we will begin in January 2012 to publish *Tips for WBS Teachers*, a separate newsletter for WBS coordinators,



WBS youth teaching team in Olympia, Washington

teachers and decision-makers. The purpose of *Tips* will be to share information, advice, reminders and updates on WBS correspondence

teaching methods. While most inspirational stories will be reserved for *Action!*, some may move to *Tips* if they illustrate practical pointers for success. The WBS staff will continue to be responsive as teachers seek solutions or offer suggestions, but the staff also may include such items in the *Tips* newsletter for the benefit of others.

Tips for WBS Teachers will begin on an occasional basis, being published with important developments or when sufficient material accumulates. The *Tips* newsletter should go to every WBS coordinator, who should then pass it on by email or paper to every teacher and interested leader. In addition, some proactive teachers may wish to receive it directly from WBS. Email is the preferable delivery method, but we can also send a paper copy. If you wish to receive *Tips for WBS Teachers* or if you have a tip, please email Sherri at sherri@worldbibleschool.net or write to Sherri Hays, WBS, P.O. Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630.



New Transitions Rooted In Experience

In the last issue, we highlighted **Jonathan Towell** and his family from Lubbock. Jonathan, (IT, Harding University) comes to us from a successful career in Web marketing for numerous world-class clients. His experience in building advertising and teaching systems for World English Institute is especially significant as World Bible School and WEI partner more closely. His arrival launches a new era for Internet evangelism.

We recently honored **Dot Bradley** who retired after 13 years as WBS' Controller. During that time the ministry grew, and with



Gale Scott at work in Cedar Park

it accounting responsibilities. Dot adapted gracefully and competently. When she indicated her wish to retire, **Gale Scott** was brought in for train-

ing and transition. Gale (Math, University of Texas) worked for Paul Faulkner's company, Resources for Living, for 14 years. Eight of those were as Human Resources Manager and assisting the Controller with accounting, payroll and reporting functions. September 21, 2011, marks the start of Gale's full role as WBS Controller. Gale has worked with prison evangelism and WBS campaigning, and she continues prolific WBS teaching that spans 30 years. Her converts through WBS are now leaders in the Lord's church. Her WBS experience combines with professional skill to enhance WBS all the more.

For seven years **Kenny Reville** served in Shipping and Maintenance at Cedar Park. He retired in 2007, and **John Tesseyman** took the role. John, an evangelist and New York transit engineer, was already serving as a Manhattan shepherd during the trauma of 2001. At WBS, he handled the very physical

work with inspiring energy. We honored John at his second retirement. On October 17, 2011, the mantle fell on **Tom Albert** (Microbiology, University of Texas; Doctor of Medicine, UA de Guadalajara). Tom has been involved with WBS since 1990. He facilitated and computerized the WBS program for the Del Rio church, Texas. He currently works with Austin's Burmese refugees who are learning, in part, through WBS courses. We welcome Tom, Gale and Jonathan—each a quality partner—in their new roles as WBS moves to the next level of effectiveness.



"Jojo" Ramos and Tom Albert with a map of their mutual interest, the Philippines

Prayer Request

by Si Muraicho
WBS Service Center
Harare, Zimbabwe

Robin Canon, from the WBS office in Cedar Park, Texas, has been with us [Alice, Si, Maidei and the team in Harare] for two and half weeks. He is teaching us how to scan lesson answers, a method that I believe will make the mail flow very fast and make the WBS team here more efficient. We are all very excited to learn and we are adapting to this [potentially] new way of sending mail. We are still experimenting, but we are praying that it works well. Technology is changing each day, and it is important for us not to be left behind. Please join us in praying for this project to work.

Editor's Note: More information is coming. For now, please be prayerful that the Lord blesses WBS efforts to become more efficient and effective. The Harare office receives and forwards mail from WBS students to their U.S. teachers. From Zimbabwe alone, the weight of returned answers thus processed in 2011 was about 1,660 lbs., some 500 lbs. more than in 2010.





New Works in Liberia



By Ron Pottberg

Yesterday was another of those 16 hour days that makes my life a joy and my

ministry all worthwhile. It started early with a team devotional at 6:00 A.M. and ended last night around midnight when we finally reached Monrovia. We preached and taught all morning, then travelled ten hours on some of Africa's worst roads in the dust and heat. Why did we go to Bahn? The church used to meet there but fell apart during the war. In recent years, the work resumed and a small WBS office was set up. Local brethren began to enroll many for WBS lessons. We



had our fifth WBS graduation on Saturday with over 45 who had completed all of the WBS courses in 2011. They wore their WBS shirts and marched through the dusty streets of the town to the graduation ceremony. They bring the number graduated to over 150. What a joy to hear these denominational people praise WBS for such a great study. As a result many have been baptized and are now faithful members of the church.

Four years ago the brethren found a piece of land. Isaac Daye helped to buy two lots for they needed to think bigger. With assistance they finished their building, and we dedicated it with a full house of 200. Each night we showed videos in the town center. On the first night 29 were baptized, the second night 10, the third three, and 11 on Sunday. Now 53 new souls worship with the church Bahn.

We also spent two days in the district capital Saclapea. We preached from house to house and showed the videos for two nights. On Saturday night, 15 came forward



and were baptized into Christ. This new church had nowhere to meet, but arrangements were quickly made. The church began on Saturday night and met for the first time on Sunday morning.

Because of violence in Ivory Coast, Bahn has a refugee camp of over 6,500 refugees—one of many camps now in Liberia. Until you visit a refugee camp, you do not know how blessed you really are in America. A refugee carries everything on his back and walks a thousand miles to the safety of a neighboring country, hoping the war does not follow you there, too. We searched for members of the church in the camp. The next day over a dozen members met with us. They had worked with Barry Baggott in Ivory Coast and asked for materials in French. We invited them to Bahn. So, are 16 hour days worth it? I think you know the answer.



New Field Proves Fruitful

by Larry Taylor

In 2003 the Baker Heights church of Abilene sent a scouting expedition to Zambia seeking an unevangelized region. So was born "East-Reach Zambia" missions to the Eastern Province.

Our goal was be to "plant and mature congregations." Our approach has been to show Christ's love by addressing physical needs and then ministering to spiritual needs. We made plans for congregations with preachers in all nine districts, a preacher training school, leadership training events, enrolling students in WBS correspondence courses, and more.

Chipata became the base of operations. It

was the home area of educationalists Wellington and Ireen Mwanza and their son Goodwin who returned to coordinate outreach and lead the Chipata Bible College. With God's help, much has been accomplished. Here are some East-Reach achievements:

- Approximately 100 congregations now meet each Lord's Day in the Eastern Province.
- Since 2007, there have been 1,659 baptisms and 1,675 restorations.
- Hundreds of members, both men and women, have been trained and equipped at seminars and lectureships.



Dental work during an East-Reach campaign

- Chipata Bible College has a beautiful ten-acre campus with four capable instructors. Twenty men have completed a Bible and ministry short-course. The school is transitioning to a two-year curriculum. The first class of 12 well-grounded preachers will graduate at the end of 2012.
- Thousands of Bibles, WBS courses, songbooks, blankets, birthing kits and food packages have been distributed.
- Thousands enjoy fresh water from wells drilled in five villages.
- Three medical missions have been conducted. In the latest, 13 Americans joined Zambian brethren to treat 3,000 people. Gospel preaching resulted in 125 baptisms. The East-Reach work has just begun!



Zambian
and
American
campaigners
on
East-Reach



From Mohammed to Christ *from page 2*

hotel within three days. I arranged this very secretly.” And so, fearful of being discovered, Omar and his wife were baptized.

Since then, the government confiscated his computer. But, praise God, they apparently did not see his communications with WBS. Still, he must be careful. He and his wife have four children.

FAISAL just wanted to learn English better. Surfing the Internet, he found World English Institute which teaches English using the Bible as a text book. His job includes providing relief to families whose bread winner has been killed. He enrolled and became fascinated with a God of love. When he read in Isaiah of the eternal Prince of Peace, he grew curious. He realized that what he was beginning to agree with was dangerous. People in his country have been beaten, imprisoned and executed just for giving someone a Bible.

He taught his wife, and they were both baptized secretly in their bathtub. He wants to teach others about Christ, but does not know how without risking his family. Now he discreetly posts signs “Learn English Free: WEI.” Thus, WEI can do the teaching for him. Within the past month he has received two threatening phone calls. He and his wife have four children. Please pray for them.



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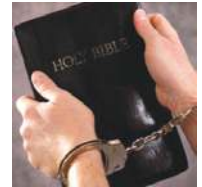
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