

Action!



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

Volume 76, Number 5

September 2012

AFRICA

The Ethiopian of Acts 8 was a child of Africa. The Lord loved him so much that He diverted Stephen from fruitful missions to focus on this one African.



The Nigerian
C.A.O. Essien was a child of Africa. He was a seeker who had visited

group after group, and concluded that New Testament Christianity no longer existed. Providentially, he received from Nashville a Bible course that restored his hope. He was so delighted with its Good News that he began to tell others. My father and Eldred Echols were the first to follow up. They confirmed that Essien had sparked a major movement to Christ. Commencing from that one correspondence course, churches of Christ in Nigeria now number well over 4,000.



Peter and Concillia Mahumba are children of Africa. Peter saw a free WBS offer

in Zimbabwe's national newspaper, the *Herald*. Ed Mosby in Arkansas and Paula Leverett in Texas became his WBS teachers. The WBS Service Center in Avondale, Harare, arranged follow up. After his baptism, Peter cycled on a circuit that included 35 schools, enrolling WBS students and carrying WBS mail (until his bicycle broke).

He says, "Life is hard in Zimbabwe. [But] the Lord wants me to preach His Word and start His congregations."

Since Peter gives full-time to evangelism, the Avondale congregation supports him with \$40 each month. Recently one of the schools hosted a WBS seminar attended by 500 youth, parents and faculty. Eventually 175 were baptized, and yet another congregation began.

I, John Reese, am also a child of Africa. Today, through the efforts of



Peter, Concillia and others, my birthplace Zimbabwe leads in WBS enrollments. In that country, 300,000 enrolled in 2012 through our Cedar Park office—just one portal among

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many. Well over 1 in 20 in that nation has received WBS material. Now our goal is to duplicate that impact in nation after nation across Africa. Please pray for this year's special target, Malawi, which is expected to bring in 50,000 new students, but which currently is experiencing postal difficulties.

World Bible School also claims Africa. Jimmie Lovell of California played a key role in Essien's story. That



correspondence success inspired Jimmie to develop WBS. If Africa was an early cradle, it also became WBS' largest classroom, with many millions enrolled. Working alongside Jimmie were his daughter Patsie and her husband Doug Trowbridge. They followed the amazing

reports, but had never been on an inspection tour. They asked Beth and me to take them to Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Botswana in April 2012. Everywhere we turned, WBS' impact—past, present and potential—was evident. Partly through Patsie's eyes, this *Action!* offers glimpses of that tremendous impact on Africa, and invites you to join us on similar tours!



Jimmie Lovell's Dream, A Daughter's Pilgrimage



Patsie shares the WBS story in Africa.

By Patsie Trowbridge
My husband and I recently returned from a 20 day trip to Southern Africa with John Reese, President of World Bible School, and his wife, Beth. For me the trip was a pilgrimage. It provided a personal opportunity to see some of the locations and people working on behalf of WBS. That is the result of the dream and vision of my father and the founder of WBS, Jimmie Lovell, in his quest to fulfill the Great Commission.

My husband and I have served on the Board of WBS since the non-profit organization was formed. For six years after my father's death, I was the president of the West Coast Branch which was eventually shifted to Austin under the leadership of Reuel Lemons and later Tex Williams.

Meeting people who were converted as a result of being taught through the WBS

lessons was an honor. Seeing firsthand the Centers carrying on the work, as well as attending churches involved in the distribution of WBS materials, brought a needed closure to my understanding of the extent and impact WBS can have.

The personal witnessing of converts whose lives had been radically changed brought tears to my eyes. Their dedication, despite having few resources, to share the message of salvation with others was humbling. In one church, where over half of the congregation sat on the ground, I was handed a song book that we would have discarded in America. The cover was falling off and many pages were bent and frayed, but the singing was heaven sent.

I attest to the fact that WBS is on the move and that its impact is dramatic.

At the present time an estimated one and a half million truth-seekers in 200 nations are studying the Bible with WBS, with a new enrollee every two minutes.

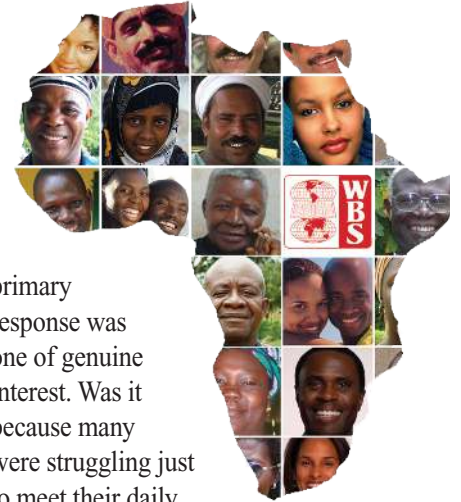
As we traveled, the four of us shared the purpose of our trip with people we met—guides, drivers, waiters and fellow travelers. There was not one incident when we were met with a negative reaction. The

primary response was one of genuine interest. Was it because many were struggling just to meet their daily needs that a message of hope brings such a reaction? Or is it that we disciples in America have come to fear a possible negative response, or that our behavior will be judged as socially unacceptable if we reach out to others?



Doug at WBS workshop in Zimbabwe.

Upon his death my father handed me a baton of responsibility which I will continue to honor. Our travels in Africa, where we personally saw the fields ripe for harvesting, intensified that commitment. May I attest to the fact that WBS is on the move and its impact is dramatic. We need the involvement of fellow Christians who also grasp the vision and who will join us in getting the soul saving Gospel to the rest of the world.





Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

Planning...and taking action.

I hope that I'm still alive when you're reading this later in September. In the last issue of *Action!*, I noted that I was training for a full Ironman triathlon on September 22. (Note to Carolyn [and Ken] Rhodes in Lubbock: *Mom, don't worry, I'll be OK. I won't really die.*)

Ironman training is a big deal. It takes lots of planning and lots of putting the planning into action. Quite literally. After all, one has to prepare both body and mind to swim 2.4 miles, cycle 112 miles, then run 26.2 miles. (Have you ever seen that bumper sticker that says "140.6"? That's the sum of the Ironman distance: that car owner is an "Ironman"!)

We're talking *planning* and *acting* on that plan for almost a year. A typical week since the Spring has included six days of training and up to nine separate workouts. In these last months, I've often eked out 14-17 hours of pure workout time per week. Yep, that takes some planning. And some acting on those plans.

140.6

It also takes some *rationalization!* So, it's also a fund raiser for WBS. How about a gift for world evangelism and to spur me along? Maybe \$140.60? Or \$25 or \$250? Remember: \$1 given lets one soul study.

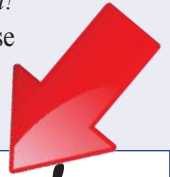
Ministry application: It's a truism that "world evangelism" is a big project. It takes prayer. It takes planning. It takes commitment. It takes effort. And it takes action. After all, Jesus says, "Go." We at WBS have big plans for world evangelism. They involve millions of students and thousands of everyday Christians. They involve Bible lessons, the Internet, staff, churches, donors, volunteers, more technology, worldwide Christians, and more.

Our plans involve action—the efforts of all of us, working together, at home and around the globe—to share the Good News of Jesus with as many as will receive it. We're committed to that. Are you on board with us? As Jesus says "Go", let's go and take action together.



Are you taking Action!?

Well, you're certainly reading this issue! As our inspirational newspaper of proactive evangelism, *Action!* is an important part of WBS' planning. It is relevant for all Christians, inspiring them to share their faith—both as "light" in the world and with WBS. You can help us be good stewards by requesting to receive *Action!* via email. Some give to help offset the costs of printing and mailing *Action!* However you want it, please join us in taking *Action!* in world evangelism.



Action!

Editor: John Reese

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Juanita Burks
- Ken & Carolyn Rhodes' 60th**
Kathryn Lynch Thompson

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- Jack & Marge Ryan**
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- Rob Kranz**
John & Beth Reese

Serving in the Military

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Ellen Welker

- Katherine Wilson**
Sam Epperson Family

Note: The final *Action!* for 2012 is the November issue. If you wish to honor a loved one either through a memorial or honorarium for the upcoming holidays, please send those to the Cedar Park office by October 12th.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts are ideal ways to pay tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to "teach the Word and reach the world" with WBS.

My primary gift information is on the back of this form.

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City _____ State _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

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WBS Reaches Dad from page 6

funny thing was, he would always bring it up. Last year he retired, and through God's providence, he asked me for some reading material. He is an avid reader and an "eternal student." I took the opportunity to offer him a free Bible correspondence course, to which he hesitantly agreed. I immediately sent a text message to Mark Swartz, who wasted no time in sending Dad a WBS Introduction Lesson.

Sometime later, I popped in to see how Dad was doing. As usual, I did not talk about church or the Bible. But mid-conversation Dad suddenly said, "I need to get baptized!" I was so shocked and surprised that I (for a preacher) was briefly speechless. Then Dad showed me his three certificates for the various levels. I was seriously "blown away." We made an appointment there and then, and he was baptized into Christ at age 72. Praise God for the power of His word!

Around four years ago, Eddy and Florence Carolus began studying through WBS with Mark Swartz. He alerted me, and we continued with personal Bible studies. This elderly couple, who had previously been with the Old/New Apostles, were diligent and determined to be sure of the Truth.

Eddy and Florence wanted to be baptized on the same day. They viewed this special day in the same light as their wedding day when they committed themselves to each other in the Lord's presence. This time, they would commit themselves to the Lord in the presence of each other. Since then, 2010, they have been faithful Christians. They started a new congregation in Fisantekraal. Eddy was recently very ill, but the Lord restored him to health, much to our delight, and his dear wife's joy.

In beautiful Cape Town, the Reeses and Trowbridges visited Mark and Flora Swartz—friends from John's youth in (then) Rhodesia. Now they manage The Vineyard, a mission outreach of Cloverdale church in Searcy, AR. Entering the Vineyard, we met Read, a computer instructor. He was pleased to show us his WBS answer page. Mark tells more of Read's story here. If space permitted, Mark and Flora could tell many more stories of the special challenges, dangers and triumphs of ministry deep inside South Africa's second largest city.

The Vineyard

By Mark Swartz

Located on the cusp of a residential and business area in Cape Town, South Africa, The Vineyard attracts a variety of visitors and passers-by. Some are curious. Some are serious seekers after truth. They are excited by our offer of various Bible correspondence courses, anchored by World Bible School. Many are troubled and distressed. They need help, which gives us an opportunity to pray and counsel with them, and to share the Scripture's Good News.

As a refugee, Read Yobe's experiences in South Africa had not been kind. He searched for a church to attend but was wary of so many new "churches" with strange



Mark and Flora Swartz
on Table Mountain

teachings. Walking past The Vineyard, Read saw our WBS display. This immediately attracted Read. He later explained, "I knew WBS from my home in Zimbabwe,



Bible study at The Vineyard
(Read Yobe, far left.)

and that it could be trusted, so I came in to find out more." Recently, after WBS studies, Read was immersed into Christ. He has enrolled several other Zimbabweans to study the Bible.

Deon October, an inmate in one of the large prisons here, has completed WBS courses and now is studying Apologetics Press courses on Christian Evidences. He wrote, "I have been placed in a new cell where the majority of inmates are Muslims. They have their gatherings, where one will, after their prayers, teach out of the Koran. When I hear this, I just can't stop

Mark beside correspondence
course files



thank God enough for the Bible as the inspired word of God. Thank you very much for these teachings, and may God truly bless you." Deon is one of several thousand students on our data base of Bible correspondence courses. We share Deon's thankfulness for WBS and other Bible courses!



Tips for Teachers!

Teaching More Effectively



By Bill Colwell

Thanks for your tremendous response to the 2012 WBS Coordinator Survey! Based on survey feedback, and what I learned during

my recent trip to Tennessee and Alabama, it's clear that coordinators and teachers are finding innovative ways to make their WBS programs more effective. Some of these ideas are described below. See if you can use any of these to make your program even better.

Make it personal! Use tracts to answer questions about specific Biblical topics. Send personalized welcome letters to new students, and tell referral students who referred them (ie: tape a note to the Intro lesson front cover.) Have on-site workers personally hand Intros to interested persons to increase the return rate.

Get creative! Examples:

- 1) Train new teachers on how to prepare lessons for mailing by using a simulated

Intro. Copy the Intro lesson front and back covers onto one side of a page. Copy page 8 and Return Page 1 onto the other side, then fold in half. New teachers practice preparing it for mailing as they would an actual Intro, without the worry of ruining an Intro lesson if mismarks occur.

- 2) Purchase local postal route addresses from the Post Office, and bulk mail a WBS flier or Intro to each address.
- 3) Purchase rights to a URL that is a Scripture reference or theme. Link it to your WBS Connect website. Use your vehicle as a mobile billboard (e.g. on a Jeep's spare tire cover) to advertise your URL/Connect site.

Use technology! Equip your missionaries with a digital camera. Have them send baptism photos so WBS teachers can celebrate each new birth. Conduct Skype telephone calls between the WBS team and your missionaries.

Maximize congregational support! Post a WBS bulletin board. Announce WBS

baptisms, and publish them in your bulletin. Distribute the *Action!* Newsletter to members, and publicize your program to newcomers. Pray for your WBS program and workers during services. Find "specialist" WBS helpers—those who will stamp lessons, fold inserts, update student databases, etc. Meet as a team at a scheduled time during the week to encourage each other, help answer tough questions, and enjoy great fellowship.

Do you have other great ideas to share? Send them to me at the WBS postal address or to bill@worldbibleschool.net.



We and the Trowbridges visited Central church of Christ in Cape Town. Again, we encountered World Bible School's effect. Evangelist Ben Little shares here what he told us there.

WBS Reaches Dad



By Ben Little

My Dad—George—was a "dyed-in-the-wool" Catholic. For 13 years, he and I

discussed the Scriptures, but the discussions often got heated. As a result, I stopped talking with him about "religion" as he saw it. The

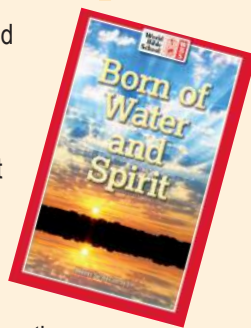
continued on page 5

TOOLS Born of Water and Spirit

Sequentially, *Born of Water and Spirit* follows *Knowing Jesus* in World Bible School's Master Series. *Knowing Jesus* builds faith in Christ, using an approach similar to John's Gospel. *Born of Water and Spirit* then focuses on John 3, namely Jesus' message to Nicodemus, which identifies key elements of salvation. The course explores each element through its setting, first in the immediate context of John, then in the wider context of the Bible.

This kind of contextual approach often proves more persuasive because the passage itself supplies the key points (as compared with appearing to cobble texts together to suit one's case). Among other things, the context is crucial for discerning the meaning of "water and Spirit" in the new birth.

At the same time, following Jesus' entire discourse helps to balance this Gospel presentation by reflecting Jesus' own choice of emphases. Just as Jesus did with Nicodemus, this course lovingly confronts the student with his need and with God's sacrificial solution. It calls for the same response, which Jesus insists is essential for entering the kingdom. This course has a proven track record. Many thousands have responded and enjoy the kingdom today. May multitudes more benefit as you share with them the King's convicting, converting call of John 3!



The Trowbridges meet Eddy and Florence at Central church in Cape Town.



On the Reese-Trowbridge tour, we visited Roger and Martha Dickson in Cape Town. They are prolific producers and distributors, making Roger's Bible and advanced materials available to leaders all across Africa and beyond. During our visit, Roger was preparing for a major journey as far north as Namibia's border with Angola. His subsequent report gives an idea of the impact. Note also Roger's offer to WBS teachers.

Restoration Seminars— Awesome Open Doors

By Roger Dickson

This is one of the most exciting reports I have written in 40 years as a missionary. Malvin and Hazel Kivedo, Denville Willie and I just returned from an over 4,000 mile trip during which we conducted six Restoration



Seminars. Religious groups had invited us to come and talk to them about the restoration of Christianity in their key areas. Throughout these seminars we contacted over 150 preachers of all religious groups.

Denville introduced the seminars with exhortation to restore the authority of Jesus through faith based on the authority of God's word. In order to bring everyone together on the same page of this spiritual



Roger and Martha send thousands of DVDs to seeking leaders throughout Africa.

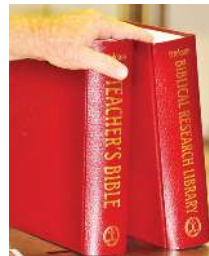
journey, I spoke on beginning our journey to restoration by understanding the Gospel of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, and obedience thereto by immersion in obedience to the Gospel. Malvin concluded by presenting the Teacher's Bible and book, *A Call to Restoration*, with a charge to restore the Bible as the foundation of our faith and unity.

During the journey, we returned to a true restoration movement that is actually taking place. Between 400 to 500 churches in the Ovamboland region of Namibia are on their way. I was among these churches over a year ago, and was truly astonished to see how far they had come from experiential-based faith to the Bible-base in their journey away from traditional religions. Their restoration has now been going on for over 15 years—just amazing! We are now in the process of getting the Teacher's Bible and Biblical Research Library into the hands of every preacher of this movement. This is a road of discovery. It is discovering what God is already doing without our presence as He brings people to the source of His word. It is just so encouraging to step into His work.

The Teacher's Kit

Africa International Missions offers to World Bible School teachers a unique resource library for students who have completed all WBS courses. The resource kit (16 lb. mail bag) includes the following: *The Teacher's Bible* (1,900 page complete Bible with commentary on each Old and New Testament book, footnoted Scriptures and the *Encyclopedic Study Guide*), the *Biblical Research Library* (a companion volume that includes 40 books in a single 2,000 page volume), the *Biblical Research Library DVD* (a collection of hundreds of charts, over 150 books, maps, Bible dictionary and encyclopedia, plus much more), and the book, *A Call for Restoration*. This is a "school of preaching" in one mail bag. If you want a sample of the material in the kit, email for a free copy of the *Biblical Research Library DVD*, containing all the material.

The entire package is sent out worldwide from Cape Town, South Africa, at a cost of \$75.00 per kit. WBS teachers whose students have completed all WBS courses can learn more about the Teacher's Kit by contacting us at rdickson@mweb.co.za. Payment would be to the Eastwood church of Christ, who sponsor this project, in Hutchinson, Kansas.



Africa Testifies

World Bible School, by that name, is 39 years old this year—and about to celebrate its 40th anniversary!

Jimmie Lovell's dream is coming true, with some 25,000,000 lives touched by WBS in nearly four decades. Much of that impact has been in Africa. From the beginning, Jimmie's daughter Patsie shared the dream, as did her husband Doug Trowbridge. Their first visit to Africa's fruitful WBS fields came in 2012. They first visited Zimbabwe, where their hosts were Washington and Alice

I want to say thank you to WBS for bringing me a new life.



Patsie and Doug with converts through WBS

Mhlanga. Their first event was a gathering of WBS students and evangelists at the Avondale WBS Service Center (Alice's office) in the capital Harare.

Student after student told personal stories. Some were shy. Some needed translation. But all were inspirational. Their common theme was how the Gospel changed their lives through WBS studies.

One said, "I want to say thank you to WBS for taking away the things which I was doing and bringing me a new life."

Perhaps most eloquent was deaf

Dominique. A stroke had stolen his hearing. His desire to learn was desperate, and speeches just frustrated him. He moved us all by describing his relief at finding WBS courses he could *read*. Now he is a



Dominique testifies



WBS follow up workers

pillar in the Norton congregation.

Among the conversion testimonials, a surprising number came from the follow up evangelists themselves. Their involvement is *personal* since WBS reached them! WBS also equipped them to reach many more.

One reported, "As of now, I know of eight congregations that I have helped establish with WBS—but there are so many more. In those churches, I would say that three-quarters are WBS students."



Most encouraging to the Zimbabweans was the founders' unique

perspective brought by Doug and Patsie. They expressed their joy in all that had been accomplished. They also emphasized the volunteer spirit of Jimmie and the movement, which sets the example and tone for WBS worldwide.



Upcoming with WBS...

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Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!
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