

Action!

Volume 77, Number 4

July 2013



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

*There is a tide in the affairs of men.
Which, taken at the flood,
leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.*

Tides of Time

By John Reese

This famous quote from Shakespeare means, “Take your opportunities when they present themselves.” Picture yourself in a ship prepared to sail. When the tide rises, the ship floats clear of obstacles. When the full tide turns toward the sea, launch your ship! Miss that moment, and you will be left behind. I believe we now have an opportune tide that begs to be taken.

First, we have a *flood of preparation*. Consider the time-line on this issue’s

center-spread. Where do we stand in relation to that time-line? At the end... meaning we benefit from all the preceding progress. Decades of hard-won advances have positioned us well to surge forward.

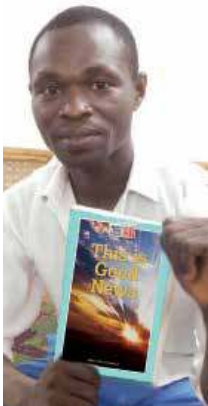
Second, we have a *flood of need*. In some ways, the tide has run against us for 20 years. During that period, churches of Christ in the United States appeared to decline by 1.5% per year, while the U.S. population grew by 35%. We witness urgent needs within the church, and greater needs among those suffering for lack of

hearing the Gospel. Enough of “shallows and miseries”! Lord, grant us a mighty tide to lift and launch us!

Third, we have a *flood of opportunity*. Here’s the proof:

- Every 30 seconds, another person applies for World Bible School studies. Each year over 800,000 ask for printed lessons. Postal studies may be slower and less convenient—opposites of what our culture wants. But please remember

continued on page 2



Islamic Seekers

By Kent Chambers

Over 3,000 new students enrolled in World Bible School in the strongly Islamic area around Yendi, Ghana. The student population is approximately 90% Muslim but they are required to learn about Christianity, Islam and Traditional religions. During one week in March, over 10,000 students in all junior and senior high schools in the district learned of Jesus and the Bible from a

continued on page 2



1973-2013

**Islamic Seekers** from page 1

small group from Texas.

The team consisted of Kent Chambers, Michael Everist and Rob Kranz of Westover Hills church of Christ (Austin) and Ron Pottberg of WBS, working alongside local Ghanaian evangelists. Continuing a program begun in 2001 by John Reese, the team had previously sent WBS “intro” lessons, *The Way to Life*, to be distributed in the schools.

Travelling by motorcycles to dozens of villages, the group greeted the headmaster and teachers, and then engaged very well-

behaved, attentive students despite the 105°F+ temperatures. Nearly all the area students speak and understand English in addition to their tribal language. The Spirit was truly at work while teaching and answering the many thoughtful questions of students and teachers. The team collected WBS fully completed intro lessons to add to the thousands of students enrolled during previous missions. They also left an extensive scriptural guide to Christianity for each student and teacher.

The team conducted many other

activities, such as: obtaining permission for WBS to enter the Yendi prison; giving food to Yendi lepers; providing goats to some poor Christians; showing the *Jesus* Film to 700 Muslims in Gbungbalaga; renewing friendships and contacts with Yendi Education ministers and the local Christian chief; conducting WBS and leadership seminars; and leading a Sunday service attended by members from 28 village churches to encourage using WBS to reach their neighbors. For more details see “Ghana for Christ 2013 Campaign” on Facebook.



The evangelistic team sets out.



Village scenes from Yendi.



Teaching Muslim schoolgirls.

Tides of Time from page 1

this: The poor cannot afford access to the Internet. Paper is their way to learn, and they come to us by the millions! Zimbabwe has about half a million WBS students, and its successful model can be adapted to nation after nation. For an example see “Islamic Seekers.”

- WBS Internet’s rise since the launch of February 2011 is meteoric. Every four minutes on average, a new seeker enrolls via Internet. A recent week saw 5,800 students logging in from 161 nations. Though seekers from all 200-plus countries find us, Americans lead enrollments every month. As we pay for good positioning on Google, there appears to be no ceiling.

Basically, we



can have as many students as we want! See “Faith Decisions” on page 8.

- During the same sample week, 655 teachers from 27 nations logged into worldbibleschool.org. Compare that with how many more ought to use such ultra-simple Gospel sharing. Millions

WBS Internet’s rise is meteoric. Every 4 minutes, a seeker enrolls online.

of members use Internet for socializing, entertainment and commerce. How about the ultimate communication: sharing Jesus? Virtually every American member can give Good News to seekers. Additionally, Internet knows no borders. In any nation, members with access can become teachers. Some 700 churches have formal WBS programs, whereas the likely pool of teachers in America alone is around 8,000—plenty of room to grow. Revival will flourish as members and churches discern their mission anew and discover the newest exciting ways to impact communities.

The tide is lifting already. Two courses confront us. Ride the turning tide, which “leads on to fortune.” Or let it pass, consigning ourselves to “shallows and miseries.” Twelve leaders at Kadesh Barnea faced similar choices. Ten hesitated, wanting something better and safer later. Two saw the reality of what God had promised and prepared for now. The difference turned out to be conquest in Canaan or death in the wilderness. Each leader made his choice.

Now it’s our turn. “There is a tide in the affairs of men”—and it’s flowing right now. So, what will it be for us? Obey or delay? Launch or languish? Decide or die? Faith knows the right time and the right choice. “Now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).





A Timeline for Your Students

Do you ever wish you could see a student's entire history in one spot? The WBS teaching site has such a feature: the Timeline. From the Timeline a WBS teacher can see when exams were assigned or completed, when messages were sent, when certificates were assigned and more. The Timeline can be used with Internet or postal students.

Over 1,200 Christians have signed up to teach the Bible with the WBS website in the past 12 months. Come join us.

Apply to teach right now. Go to worldbibleschool.net/teach.



May 20, 2013	
●	Living with a Mission was assigned.
●	Living with God's Family was assigned.
●	Living with God's Spirit was assigned.
●	Ready for Good News? was graded.
May 19, 2013	
●	Finished Ready for Good News? and earned a 100%.
May 04, 2013	
●	Finished Responding to Good News and earned a 100%.

Welcome! Rusty Brown

Rusty Brown has joined our WBS team as Internet Support Manager. Rusty made a strong impression (among many fine resumés) due to a rare combination of skills, experience and personality.

He's a "missionary kid", born and raised in Venezuela. Like his parents, he's a missionary at heart and gifted with Spanish and French (two languages, besides English, useful for WBS in our Internet programs).

Rusty graduated from Harding University in 2004 with a degree in Interactive Media. He ran a web design business and served as a church planter. Then he and his wife Brittany (Pade) taught English in China (2007-2009). Back in Knoxville, Tenn, they recently became parents with the birth of their son Paden Kai Brown. Rusty provides online support for teachers and students who use WBS tools.



Brittany, Paden and Rusty Brown

Encouraging Words

Editor's note: *We include this letter from Dorothy Oliphant, not because it is a profound news-maker, but because it is representative of so many others that we receive from unsung heroes. Untold thousands of volunteer teachers have given of themselves sacrificially to spread God's Message. Especially during this anniversary year, we want them to know how much they are appreciated!*

Dear John,

It has been many years since I met you in Arlington, TX. I am now 91. Here is how we got involved. A family was receiving much mail from people in West Africa. As good neighbors, we offered to help them respond to precious student cards from five countries.

But that was even before my involvement with WBS. These were cards from Donna Compton, who had moved to Deer Park. Through Donna I met Tex Williams, Ron Pottberg and Erin Gammon.

Since 1976, my life was filled with precious lessons and letters from WBS students. I wrote to each student and received so many letters and snapshots that are filed away in my bedroom to this day.

Though I've experienced health issues over later years, I was still able to send some lessons from our "Monday Night for the Master" ministry at the Deer Park church of Christ (Deer Park, TX).

In Him,

Dorothy Oliphant



Donna Compton

Faith Decisions from page 8

surpass budget. We did not hesitate because we know the heart of Jesus. We believe you share that heart too. 2013 is the 40th Anniversary of the name "World Bible School." This is the right time (see "Tides" on page 1) for an extra-special gift to keep up this unique soul-saving momentum.

The impact will be worldwide, but the main nation to benefit will be the United States. Fellow-Americans are our leading seekers via Internet. Let's put the necessary funds to work for all these seekers to become finders—fulfilling Heaven's promise, "Seek and you will find." By so doing, we also empower our own members, especially our new generations, to share the Gospel hope. The church needs this breakthrough. The Lord is providing ways for us to reach our generation. A path to reach just a few would be great. The truth is, God is opening super highways to reach many thousands, and ultimately millions. This is well worth going the second mile and making this 40th Anniversary "extra-special."





World Bible School is celebrating our 40th anniversary during 2013. A lot has happened that has laid the foundation for WBS—as early as 1937. Here's a look at some of the many

highlights. Looking back at how God has blessed the work is fun and insightful. But it's the *looking forward in faith* that is most exciting: God has great plans for WBS and you!

1937



Jimmie Lovell: an example of *vision*, begins West Coast Christian Publishing, unveils correspondence teaching plan.

Jimmie's Bible le
Essien in Nigeria,
10,000 oth



1991



Missionary staff is added: John Reese; named Assistant Director in 1992.

1987



Tex Williams directs WBS: 1987-2006

1985



John Reese family (wife, Beth) becomes the first U.S. missionaries on the field to devote full time to follow up.

19

Reuel
directs V



1993



The *Master Series* begins with the red and blue "Intro."

1994



Missionary staff is added: Ron Pottberg; becomes Vice President, International Relations

1994



Service Centers are set up in Ghana and Zimbabwe; mail sorting begins in Austin.

Kit Mullins leads
WBS Internet,
1995-2011;
assisted by
Lance Tolar.



TODAY

2012



An all-new Web teaching site is launched, including in Spanish and Portuguese.

2011

Robin Cannon, on staff since 2007, moves to Austin as Executive Vice President.



20



Jonathan To
heads WBS
technology



40 years of sharing Jesus:
World Bible School!

1944

Lessons reach C.A.O. who, in turn, reaches others for Christ.



1962



Jimmie begins *Action!*; prays to reach "thousands of souls in all parts of the world."

1965



West Coast Christian Publishing is Incorporated.

1973

Jimmie names the method "World Bible School."

World Bible School

1984

Jim Lemmons
WBS: 1984-87



1984

Jimmie (87) goes home to receive his crown (cover from a biography by Bill Youngs).

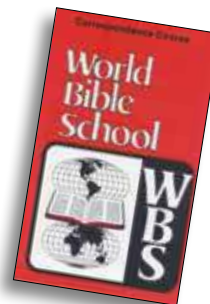


1980

Jake Coppinger becomes the first supported American to coordinate WBS follow up.



1976



The current "WBS" logo first appears.

1995



Students enroll via the Web, then learn via emailed lessons.

2000



WBS moves into its own office building in Cedar Park, north Austin.

2001



First FIF (Follow Up Information Flow) office opens in Harare, Zimbabwe.

2004

Jerry Brooks (wife, Teresa) serves as Executive Vice President through 2010.



2011



Jim Lemmons (wife, Lori) directs WBS Internet and development.

2009

Web-based teaching begins.



2006



John Reese directs WBS: 2006-present.

2005

The *Master Series* is completed.



In Honor of...

Tom Bailey

Gary & Linda Ford

Roy & Fern Bench

Billy & Lynda Terrell

Katherine Brewer

Francille Buchanan

Delphene Bruton

Deborah & Max Stephens

Jay Burcham

Mickie Kennedy

Linda Carta

Pleasant & Helen Mitchell

Mrs. Lou Cobb

Barbara Cobb Fudge

Ruth Potter Croson

Nancy Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Wendell

Ferguson

Curtis & Pam Clements

Cliff & Louise Ganus

John & Beth Reese

Alan Goins

Bob & LaVerne Maddox

Gordon Church of Christ

David Israel

Henry Green

Ann Fry

Clay & Cherry Hart

John & Beth Reese

Jack Howell

Mary Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Travis Hunt

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Roberts

Kristen Ella Israel

David Israel

Jerry Jackson

Aaron Batchelor

Kendra Jewett

Aaron Swart

Maurice Kemper

Mary Moore

Umwattie Kissoon

Ghanshyam & Leela Kissoon

Eddie Lee

Obie & Patsy Lee

Ray Litton

Mary Moore

Susan Lynn

Clyde & Nancy Barber

Max & Carolyn Macon

Chris & Paula Macon

Douglas & Carol

McClelland

Earl & Trudy Wright

Larry McKenzie

Wayne & Lois Hulen

Mr. & Mrs. Denver Meek

Channing & Sue Workman

Wm. "Lucky" Mullins

Marvelyn Mullins

Wanette Parks

Mary Moore

Jim Powell

Wayne Christopher

Jan Reagan

John & Beth Reese

Marcus Reese Family

The late Mary Helen Rowland

Carolyn Rhodes

Ken Rhodes

Lee & Lylee Robinson

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Maddox

Louise Shewmaker

Winnie E. Bell

Brandi Shifflett

Rex Howard

Scott Sladek

Connie Sladek

Geneva Tiggeman

Mary Moore

Doug & Patsie Trowbridge

Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. L. Arnold

Watson

Mrs. A.B. Martin

Joyce Wheeler

Andrea McAllister

Debby Yates

Ethel Singleton

In Memory of...

Mr. & Mrs. Graydon Abels

Mrs. Bobbie Martin

Gene Adams

Phyllis Adams

John Adams

Louis & Connie Barden

June Albright

WBS Staff

Myrtle Aldridge

Charles & Brenda Forehand

Myrtis McNeal

Judy Bloeser

Rheta Allen

Tommy & Judi Thompson

Marian Bales

Mary Nell Kemper

Billy Baxter

Alice Hernandez

Mary Boyd

Ethel Plyler

Paul & Emma Brown

Gilbert Brown

Noel & Jean Parker

Lyle Byars

Eugene & Loretta Carroll

Lawrence Castleberry

Sam & Paula Epperson

Lewin Clayton

James & Karen Shannon

Woodrow Clemmer

Paula & Lynn Leverett

Noma Compton

Dee & Audra Martin

Marie Cowart

Olvis Glaze

C.L. Cox

Pat Cox

Ray Cox

John & Beth Reese

Tommy Crosby

Joe & Cindy Price

Peggy Crouch

Don & Virginia Worten

Amon Dacus

Laura Dacus

Esther Daniels

Carl & Avalene Daniels

Nina Todd Davenport

Juanita Burks

Minnie DeLeon

Dorothy Capps

Randy Capps Family

Edward Eichelberger

Martha Eichelberger

Mr. & Mrs. Everett E.

Day, Sr.

Everett Day, Jr.

Judy DeDean's mother

Johnny & Clara Reese

Teddy Eggeling

Phil & Mary Leddy

Mary Wingo

John D. Fleming

Ben & Georgia Draper

Wayne Ford

Lar Doyle

Sibyl E. Fulton

Darrell & Lucy Mason

Henry Dwight Gardner

Charlie Wilson

Dr. & Mrs. Emerson Smith

Frances C. Garner

Krystal Cummins

Shannon Garner

Lar Doyle

T.R. Garner

Bob & Mary Helsten

John Gillmore

Lar Doyle

James "Jim" Gilley

Dr. & Mrs. James Costello

Erna Goucher

Mary Beth Pettay

Cindy Given

June Cornelius

Dale Kunzelman

Parmer Gregory

Aubrey & Jean Morman

Alvin & Lois Hamilton

Lois Robinson

Wilburn Hensley

Joe & June Hill

Annabel Heydon

Juanita Burks

Dale Higbee

Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Duane Hillger

Lar Doyle

Archie Holloway

Lar Doyle

Bernard C. Howell

Maxine Howell

Tom Hudgins

Denise Lowry

Hugh C. Huffles

Minnie Huffines

Tanner Hunter

Charicia Hunter

Dale Jones

Jerry & Joann Jaynes

Susan Joyce

Maurice & Mary Nell Kemper

Bill & Mickie Kennedy

Louise Keller

Sybil Peffley

Wyatt Kirk (3)

Pauline Kirk

Aleene Knowles

Carl & Phyllis Williams

Audra Lane

Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Sanford & Dennah Lee

Sandra Lee

Mike LeFan

Dorothy Fredrick

Reuel Lemmons

Dee & Audra Martin

Jimmie & Vivian Lovell

Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Johnson

Janelle Lowrance

Erwina Moore

Jay Maitlen

Heber Springs Ladies Class

Lauri Mannon's

grandmother

Don & Virginia Worten

Benny Joe McInnis

Gail McInnis

Dinah McLerran

Christine McLerran

Annie E. Meachum

Mr. & Mr. Maurice Hinchliffe

Albert Meredith, Jr.

Carl & Frankie Mitchell

Barbara Roberts

McNiven (2)

George Roberts

Doris Millican

Francille Buchanan

Gail Missildine

Bee Missildine

Tomas Morales

Lar Doyle

Marvin Morrell

Charles & Linda Perkins

Betty Morris

Peter & Linda Heffley

Dan Morrow

Jim & Peggy Cravens

Bob & Alice Holland

Morrow Care Group

L.B. Morton

Jim & Anne Bryant

Kenneth Oller

Melba White

Iva Jaxie Palmer

Sachse church of Christ

Russ & Karen Porter

Merlin Petty

Barbara Lowrance

Florence Pillar

Norval Bruner

George Pledger

Kathryn Lynch Thompson

Harry Albright Family

J.C. Post

Judith Johns

Mona Prim

Quenton Prim

Howard Ramsey

Jo Ann Ramsey

Wanda Ray

Frank & Gwen Brewer

Norma Richardson

Ken & Betty Baird

W.A. Ringener

Glenn Madison

Murthel Rivoire

John & Joan Ball

Lorraine Russell

Neil Russell

Richard "Dick" Sampson

June Sampson

June Sanders (2)



Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

1962.

That's my year of birth. Great year, huh? But you don't see it on the WBS 40th Anniversary timeline on pages 4-5, do you?

[By the way, isn't that timeline great? The glory goes to God for how He has used so many people in so many circumstances to do great things through WBS. Of course, space constrains us from covering many more worthy highlights.]

But back to 1962. If that's the year that I was born... then how many years might I have left until... that other date? You know, that date that we all have looming before us?

How long before I die?

Honestly, the date of my death doesn't matter much to me. All I know is that it's coming—and my eternal hope is sure. It's the *meanwhile* that's important. It's

what I do with the life and days that I have left between now and then.

So I make it my goal to "have life and have it to the full", the words Jesus used in John 10:10. I seek to "persist in doing good, to seek glory, honor and immortality" (Romans 2:7). I want to

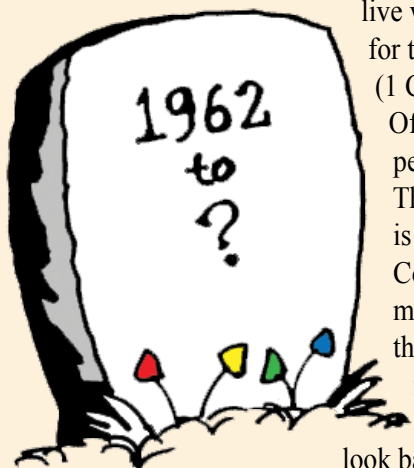
live well, to "do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Of course, I'm not perfect at these things. Thankfully, "God's grace is sufficient for me" (2 Corinthians 12:9). But in my later years—when that certain last year is nigh—if my mind's still clickin', I want to

look back and see that some

way, somehow, *I made a difference*. Like the people behind 40 years of World Bible School.

May I be a small highlight on a spiritual timeline that says: "Kevin Rhodes was light in the world" (Matthew 5:14).



Giving when I'm gone.

There's something else my wife, Julie, and I have done to help leave a meaningful legacy. We've included WBS in our estate plans.

Understand, our estate is not all that stately. But there are several ways to be generous to WBS after we've passed away. For example, it's relatively easy to "endow your annual gift" by naming WBS as a minor beneficiary to a retirement account. I can tell you why and how we did just that. Please call me at 512-345-8190.



Action!

Editor: John Reese

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Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

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I will give this on an ongoing, monthly basis.

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☐ \$_____/yr

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph (day) _____ (night) _____

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Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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☐ My gift is enclosed.

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☐ Please charge my credit card. See the amount at left.

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☐ Amex ☐ Other _____

(You can also give securely online at www.worldbibleschool.net/give)

Card No: _____

Expiration: _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as on card) _____

Signature: _____

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☐ I'm setting up payments from my bank (amount at left).

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☐ See gift information on the back of this form.



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FAITH DECISIONS

*How would you
handle this dilemma?*

World Bible School's new printed and online tools are astounding. WBS Internet is so easy that virtually every American member can apply to teach in a matter of minutes (at worldbibleschool.net), and can be teaching seekers shortly thereafter (at the separate teaching site, worldbibleschool.org).

We say "seekers" because they have searched online and requested Bible lessons. When they apply as web students, they complete the Introduction lesson, *The Way*, then become available to you, the teacher. They have proved that much interest, and you can see their computer-processed grade. In a matter of minutes, you can interact and click a button assigning the next lesson. All this is truly user-friendly. Our challenge at WBS is to get word out to more members. The opportunity to impact America and the world literally rests at their finger-tips—if only they knew!

So we are out many week days and most weekends, demonstrating the site and showing churches the Student Board where members can claim students. Imagine our chagrin when, after the presentation at Pleasant Valley, Little Rock, their members went to the teaching site, only to discover that not enough students were left for them.

Internet teaching is growing so fast that we have a great problem. "Great" as in big and wonderful! As word of Internet's "open door" is spreading, more teachers are signing up, and our

budget for Internet advertising to recruit students is not keeping up. That was why, that weekend, the Student Board was nearly empty.

Yet, if we advertise to keep up with teacher-demand, we

Become a WBS Web Teacher



truthseekers are
currently ready
for a teacher.

An adaptation of the live Student Count
at www.worldbibleschool.net/teach

will use up the year's budget early—leaving the final months of 2013 unproductive. This comes at a time when most managers would be cautious. Like other non-profits, WBS' cash flow tends to be weak at mid-year. Faced with this dilemma—budget overrun and cash-flow problems versus Internet doors opening or closing—*what would you do?*



We think we know your answer. And we too are stepping out in faith. We have told our advertisers to keep going. Don't let up. People from all over the world enroll at our web site for Bible studies. They come literally *asking* us about Jesus. Rather than quench such interest, let's add fuel to the fire. Let's raise *more* advertising dollars than anticipated.

This advertising decision means that we must meet budget and

continued on page 3

Upcoming with WBS...



"I was in prison and you..."

(In September)

