

Action!

Volume 77, Number 6

November 2013



The Key to Success?



40th Anniversary celebration has been retrospective—thanking God for so much

This final issue of *Action!* for 2013 wraps up the paper's part in commemorating 40 years of the name "World Bible School." This

accomplished, and prospective —looking to God to fulfill so much more. Anniversaries are a great time for gifts. The sale of printed courses brings in about a quarter of the income WBS needs for basic operations. The remaining three quarters come in as gifts from you who believe in God and what He does through WBS.

Though space precludes much detail

here, please take to heart this timely appeal for a special anniversary gift. Your faithful generosity is what makes this outreach a leader in world outreach. What makes WBS so outstanding is membership involvement—thousands of everyday members using WBS to share the Good News of Jesus. These members are so many and so involved that their interactive teaching touches literally millions of seekers. For over 40 years, the stories

"We are making more converts through WBS than all other methods put together."

— Dr. Flavil Yeakley

of transformed lives have packed the pages of *Action!* We are not saying that every WBS student is a success story. We are saying that WBS has such a proven track record that you can invest with utmost confidence, even if you "go the extra mile" of cashing a CD or selling an asset. You recall the remark by Flavil Yeakley, a leading life-long observer of churches of Christ: "It is my impression that we are making more converts worldwide through World Bible School than all other methods put together.

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Indonesian Impact

By Cecilia Jones



What does every missionary want to find? A sincere seeker? A disciple who will be the "good seed"? A person who will not look back? A five talent person? It seems that Daniel Setiabudi of Indonesia is one of those people. God used World Bible School as the vehicle to connect with Daniel. He had been searching for a long time. When he responded to the WBS offer of free Bible courses, his study

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1973-2013



God Bless Africa 2013

By Beth Reese

We are pleased to report that "God Bless Africa" campaigns have resumed! A long series of earlier campaigns to Zimbabwe had been discontinued after unrest repeatedly cancelled advanced bookings. During a visit by the Reeses and Trowbridges in 2012, the local WBS follow up team advised that it was time to resume, to boost their ongoing follow-up efforts. The campaign was set for June 2013, but political developments pushed the dates to August 7-20, 2013.

John and Beth Reese led the resumed God Bless Africa campaign. They were joined by



Pat Brown teaching WBS students



Beth, Bill, Ruth, Bob, Alice and Washington

WBS' Gale Scott, Patrick Brown and Bill and Ruth Colwell, along with veteran Bob Israel, and the Kendall-Balls and Hoadleys from Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Chris Magadu and Alice Mhlanga of the WBS Service Center led preparations, and over 20 local evangelists and church leaders participated.

The team's six seminars registered 352 current or new WBS students. Campaigners taught 41 classes and preached 17 sermons in the 12 day period. Thirty-eight students were baptized. A report has been sent to all the teachers identified by the attending WBS students. Some students did not bring accurate information. So please check the

full report posted at Resources on the www.worldbibleschool.net.

This was Gale's second GBA campaign. She was blessed to witness the baptisms of her own students and students of her co-teachers in Austin. See her inspiring article on Providence. From 2007-2009 WBS mounted a large effort to enroll older high school students. At a seminar, one headmaster said, "Since WBS has come into my school, I have seen improved attitudes among my students. WBS is making an impact on their characters." WBS has influenced well over 500,000 students here, likely one out of every 20 people in Zimbabwe.



GBA campaigners and coordinators

The Providence of God

By Gale Scott

Do you believe that divine providence is active today?



Gale Scott teaching WBS students

WBS coordinator, Stephanie Brennan of Amarillo, TX, prepared for Zimbabwe's God Bless Africa campaign by inviting WBS students to these seminars. Her notification form accidentally reached a new student, Rexon Mphulo, in neighboring Malawi. He had only completed *The Way to Life*. Rexon was so motivated to attend the Harare seminar that he rode the bus 19 hours from his village of Nsanje, arriving at midnight. He spent the night at the bus

station where he was picked up at 6:00 A.M. by Alice Mhlanga, our Service Center coordinator. Rexon was invited to stay at the Mhlanga's home where all 11 foreign campaigners were also housed.

Rexon attended our seminar at the Polytechnic College and was baptized into Christ that very day. Staying in the Mhlanga's home provided further teaching and encouragement, and an uplifting service



Rexon (in suit) and new church, sent from his phone



Rexon (4th from right) at baptism

at the Avondale Church of Christ where Washington is an elder. Later, we took Rexon to the bus station and sent him on his way rejoicing for the 19 hour trip back home. He was determined to help his village know Jesus.

John and Beth Reese flew to Malawi to meet postal authorities. Unexpected circumstances also brought Rexon to Blantyre. He met the Reeses again, and more significantly Davis Sauka of WBS' Service

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Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

Success (sək-ses) *n.*

The achievement of something desired, planned or attempted.

So, John asks us to “reconsider the definition of success.” Above is one that I latched onto from the Web. Does it apply to the efforts of WBS postal and web teachers? Let’s take some clues from John’s article about providing opportunity.

1. Millions of students

Can you believe that at any given time, 1.5 million truth-seekers are studying the Bible with a WBS teacher? That is an amazing number. And we are confident that it will only go up—especially as more and more souls find us online.

2. Thousands of teachers

That’s pretty awesome, too. God is using some seven or eight thousand everyday Christians to share Jesus with WBS. Recently, we passed the 1,000 mark for

active web teachers over a 30 day period—and that is growing as online student enrollments boom.

3. \$1 dollar lets 1 soul study

The simple math is still true: for every dollar given to WBS, one soul studies the Bible with us. That cost will only go down as we enroll more and more students in cost-effective ways.

4. \$77 lets 1 soul study

far enough to request baptism. We recently received two separate

gifts for \$7,700. These generous donors want to help nurture 100 souls to request to be baptized!

5. Sharing the Good News

This ministry, these caring WBS teachers, these generous WBS donors are all working together to fulfill the Great Commission.



Is there a greater mission on earth? Surely not! Join us in this great effort.

6. God is glorified

Indeed, God Himself provides the growth, even as we, his people, plant and water seeds. By His great power, lives are transformed

to produce 30 times, 60 times, 100 times the fruit. As our 40th year closes, we give God the

glory. Let’s glorify God together for the next forty years and beyond.



Action!

Editor: John Reese

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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.

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A Good History

Editor's note: Beth and I have traveled extensively this 40th Anniversary year. In each place, we encounter the impact of World Bible School. One might not think of Australia as WBS-rich. Yet, as reported in our last issue, the Lord has worked through Greg Wells, a WBS Internet teacher in Tasmania, to impact Somalia. Vinus Nelson has carried on a long-standing WBS outreach from Australia's capital Canberra. David Nelson, Dean of Academics at the South Pacific Bible College in Tauranga, New Zealand, attended our InterMission retreat, and he wrote this (edited) note soon thereafter.



Vinus and Jean Nelson

John,
Hope the rest of your trip in Australia went well. If you remember, I told you about my Dad [Vinus Nelson] who has been involved with WBS for many,



many years. Below is something he wrote to me concerning his involvement with WBS.
"I could give John Reese a good history on our (my wife, Jean, and myself) involvement in WBS. We got

David Nelson and Kent Hartman at InterMission South Pacific

involved in it if you remember when we went to Canton, Missouri with James Medford in 1971 and 1972, I think. We stayed with the Millers, and Shelby gave Mom some names but it was not called World Bible School at that time. It was International Bible School. Over the years we have over 18,000 students. That also covers the time when Ike Lummus (Evangelism Minister, Cedar Hill Church of Christ) took it over, but we have still been involved in it. When Mom and I had over 900 students and we were footing the bill. I asked Ike to see about the church getting involved in it. He talked to the elders and they agreed. Now I have more state prisoners than I do others I think."
Blessings, David Nelson



WBS in Thailand

By Kevin Rhodes

We continue to enroll WBS students in Thailand. But in a country that is 95% Buddhist and where English is still not widely spoken, our numbers are relatively low. My daughter, Renee, spent the summer as an intern in Chiang Mai with Robert Reagan and the church. I joined her with a campaign group from our church, Westover Hills church of Christ in Austin. Renee and other interns used handouts encouraging English-speakers at a university campus to practice their English and learn about the blessings of the Bible at the same time with WBS. Slowly, seeds are being planted.

Jan Reagan (a Thai and Robert's wife) has begun the process of translating WBS lessons into Thai. Although this is a long-term project, in the future many more truth-seekers in Thailand will be reached with the Gospel in their own language.



Indonesian Impact from page 1

helper was in Lubbock, TX. Soon afterward a multi-generational team from Sunset International Bible Institute and local Christians conducted a WBS seminar in Jakarta, the capital. Daniel and a relative attended and became even more interested.



WR broadcasters Daniel (second from left) and Scott (facing camera)

Duane Morgan continued to teach Daniel, his wife and their daughter.

They obeyed the Good News of Jesus. They immediately began worshipping with an existing congregation and opened their home in Bekasi for Sunday evening worship. Daniel persisted despite opposition from individuals. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, but the constitution allows religious freedom.

Now Daniel is the regular World Radio speaker from Jakarta every Sunday night. When Scott Cate visits, Daniel translates his English into Indonesian language on the air. (Broadcasts can be heard over the Internet in the USA.) Daniel has 300 World Bible School students, using lessons translated into the Indonesian language.

Kids of Indonesia (KOI) assists needy families with board, childcare and medical help. Daniel and Naomi help one mother with childcare while she works. Other benevolent care is daily food distribution for hungry children in the villages. Weekly church meetings are held at KOI's Connor House. Also, World English Institute material is used to teach English using the Bible.

Daniel and Naomi have grown through mentorship and added their own wise knowledge of Asian culture. Commendations are due to these honest, modest, productive servants of the Lord.



Providence Works! from page 2

Center who coordinates follow up in the Southern Region. They made plans for an evangelistic team to visit Raxon's village where Raxon already has established a church that meets under a tree. Yes, God's providence is at work in our world today!





Calling all Coordinators!

By Bill Colwell

One of our most important tasks is to stay in touch with local WBS Coordinators, so that we can help where needed and share good ideas which can make your program more effective. To help make this easier, we have developed an informational email, sent every other month, to WBS coordinators. If you are a Coordinator, and have not been receiving the "Coordinator's Corner" email, please send your name, your church name, and your current email address to Sheryl@worldbibleschool.net. We will update our records and make sure you are on the mailing list!



The Key to Success? from page 1



GBA baptism

Now, that is not the only thing, but that is the point of contact, and that is crucial."

It is true that, as in the book of Acts, daily additions are experienced. Beth and I have just returned from a WBS follow up campaign that rejoiced in 38 new births into Christ. After an Intermission retreat for missionaries in Australia, with excellent WBS connections, we spent two months (August and September) traveling through Africa. Time after time, even in remote places, we encountered those reached through WBS. Greater "return on

investment" often follows later as these converts become the evangelists and church leaders that reach many more. In many ways, WBS is one of the church's great success stories.

While all that is true, and key to your stewardship decisions this time of year, we all need to reconsider the definition of "success." While, by God's grace, WBS' impact has been immense, what is its real success? Suppose a WBS teacher has prayed and taught diligently, but received no reports of conversions? Is that, by definition, a lack of success? I believe the Bible clearly answers, "No!" True success is faithfulness to the Lord and to His mission. We can and should reach out, trying to teach, to warn and to persuade. But we cannot force responses. How a person responds is his or her own responsibility (Ezekiel 33). God appointed Moses as Israel's leader. His people rebelled, but Scripture's assessment still stands: "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house" (Hebrews 3:5). Jeremiah's success was not in responses, but in delivering the message God knew would be rejected. Now Jesus calls us to deliver the new message, the Gospel, to every creature. If God gives WBS genuine success, it is in this, that thousands of everyday members give Gospel opportunities to creature after creature, in nation after nation, year after year, in ways that are both personal and prolific.

Each person carries his own responsibility, and response can only come from the responder.



40 Years of Success. Really?

Editor's Note: Action! 's purposes are to inspire, involve and share best practices. We try to continue to do that, even when teaching with WBS doesn't seem to be immediately successful. Consider this letter from one WBS teacher:

Dear Mr. Reese,

I am glad WBS is growing, but we have no proof of that here. We have been WBS teachers since 1989. So many changes have taken place, but, for us, not for the better. At one time we had over 1,000 students and now we have less than 50...

Just thought I'd let you know, Sue

Sue's distress is honest and real and deserves expression. Others share her experiences, too. Usually there are reasons that explain why success is not readily apparent: normal fallout of students early in their studies; five-plus months to receive mail back; dysfunctional third world postal systems; etc.

Jesus Himself went from having many students to having few (John 6). He tells us that fruit comes "by persevering" (Luke 8). As with all evangelism, the key to WBS is "Persevere! Keep planting the seed!"

On the other hand, consider this postcard recently received from a WBS teacher in Dallas.

It begins like this:

*Dear Mr. Garrett,
You might be confused as you receive this mail.
Let me explain this letter that arrives almost 10yr late.*

The student, Stephanie in China, goes on to say that she had quit her WBS studies in 2002. Ten years later, she wanted to inform her WBS teacher that she had been baptized in Christ. She continues:

Finally, I opened my eyes and became a child of God! I am very grateful for you and all the people that God had put into my life to bring me back to Him. I just want to thank you as my WBS teacher and to share my news with you. Stephanie Sun

Imagine: ten years of no contact, a seemingly long lost WBS student resurfaces as a new sister in Christ! Heed this advice: persevere in sharing Jesus.





Progress In Namibia

By Mike Napier

I was thrilled to see what God is doing in Windhoek, Namibia. For the last six or seven years, three churches of Christ—Fredericksburg, TX, Lawson Road in Little Rock, Northside in Benton, AR—have been pioneering in Namibia with Gospel Chariot Missions (GCM).

I was privileged to be a part of the lectureship and campaign in Windhoek, planned by Fredericksburg. Christians from all over Namibia—eight congregations started by GCM—attended the lectureship. One elderly brother from the North attended. We didn't even know his



A Texas campaigner shares the Gospel.

congregation existed. He learned the truth at another congregation, then took the Gospel home to his village and baptized about 16.

While lectures went on inside the church building, Fredericksburg and African

workers were outside enrolling dozens for World Bible School and personal studies. Sisters from Fredericksburg conducted classes for the ladies. Twenty-one were baptized, many of whom received follow up studies and were with us at Sunday worship.

One highlight was a WBS Internet student. Her teacher contacted the Wanaheda church of Christ. Anton followed up and she was immersed into Christ in the baptistery on the GC truck. She attended every lecture and sat on the front row Sunday morning. With her, 250 attended on Sunday morning at Wanaheda. It was heavenly. God is so good!



Partnership Works!

By Ron Pottberg

Many years ago I took George Funk with me on a follow up visit to a WBS student. We looked and looked for the man, and finally found him. Then we studied with him for several more hours, and baptized him in a river. George had said little all day, but on the long drive home that late afternoon he made this comment: "It works; it really does work!" I said, "What works?" He said, "This WBS thing really does work! You did not know this man today. Yet you studied with him, and now he is a Christian. This World Bible School really does work!"



Evangelists with Gospel Chariot Missions enroll many WBS students (above and above right).

Now it is my turn to say, "This Gospel Chariot really does work." Recently in Malawi we worked for two weeks of evangelism with the Gospel Chariot, a big red truck that covers about 12 African countries. George and his dedicated team have two such trucks rolling across Africa throughout the year helping to evangelize, teach, preach, recruit students for WBS and plant churches.

Here is one story among many. During their day off in Zomba, the drivers hired a few locals, including Matthew Peter, to help wash the truck and tent. Looking at the big red truck and its signs "Gospel Chariot" and "World Bible School", he

asked many questions, including "How does one join your church?"

What a question to ask evangelists! Brothers Mpharo and Kalamula took Matthew through the Bible's answers, not about their church, but about the Lord's church. Matthew's interest grew. Finally



he said, "Well, I need to be baptized so that I can be in this church."

Right then, the cleaning stopped. The drivers opened the Gospel Chariot's

This WBS thing really does work. You studied with this man and now he is a Christian!

baptistery, and baptized Matthew into Christ for the remission of his sins. He came as a day laborer for a little earthly pay, and left with a heavenly reward. Keep up the good work fellow Christians and Gospel Chariot Missions!

Look for more exciting initiatives with this partnership in the January 2014 *Action!* and beyond.



Does World Bible School Work?

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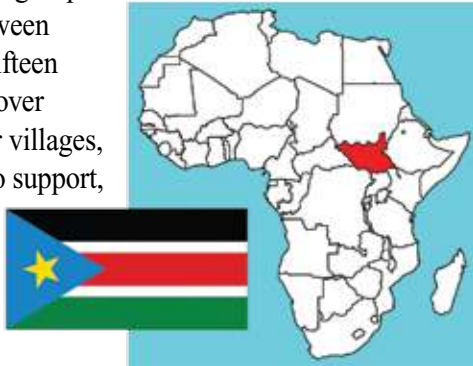
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By Lloyd Deal

For more than 20 years, the Muslim of the northern portion of Sudan oppressed and killed those with whom they disagreed in southern Sudan. You may have heard of “The Lost Boys”, a group of nomadic boys between the ages of five and fifteen that grew to number over 26,000. Fleeing their villages, orphaned and with no support, they made epic and torturous journeys across the deserts of Sudan. Many died of starvation, of disease, of wild animals, of river drowning, and at the hands of warring factions. After five years, only half of the boys’ original number had survived the ordeal. They were ultimately rescued and resettled in refugee camps in Kenya and Uganda.



Khemis Ben Manoah was one of those orphans. For years Khemis lived in a refugee camp in Koboko in northwest Uganda. Along with many others, he began studying World Bible School lessons in 2010. (Several years earlier, workers from the Memorial Road church in Edmond, OK, had traveled to that area following up with

Khemis travelled from South Sudan to the post office in Uganda to continue his WBS studies.

WBS students. They established the first of 20 churches of Christ in Arua and the West Nile area of Uganda.)

When South Sudan gained its independence in July 2011, Khemis returned as a school teacher in his home country. Khemis wanted to continue his WBS lessons, but the fledgling, poverty-stricken nation had (and has) no postal system. So he arranged that the Koboko Post Master—*back in Uganda*—would let him know when his WBS lessons arrived. He then would travel back across the border to Koboko in Uganda, study his series of lessons, mail them back to America and travel back into Southern Sudan. As his WBS teacher, he wrote to me saying he made these trips because of his commitment to continue his study of God’s word. He also added this statement: “I like doing this—it is *convenient*.”

Khemis also told of his baptism by brothers from Arua,

where I led that small group from Oklahoma years ago. Recently we learned that Khemis has been selected to be the Mayor of his community and he has established the Lord’s church there.

Does World Bible School work? Just watch to see what happens in South Sudan!



Upcoming with WBS...



IMAGINATIVE INITIATIVES

for 2014 and beyond

