

You. Sharing Jesus.



July 2014 Vol 78:4



You. Sharing Jesus. That's about as simple, direct and brief as language allows.

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

But World Bible School's watchword, our "tagline", can still raise questions. For example, who is the YOU?

By YOU we mean the biblical YOU, as in the following passages:

Be wise in the way YOU act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. (Col.4:5)

But YOU are a chosen people, a royal priesthood...that YOU may declare the praises of Him who called YOU out of darkness into His wonderful light. (1 Pet. 2:9)

In YOUR hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks YOU to give the reason for the hope that YOU have. (1 Pet. 3:15)

Every Christian experiences light and hope. Therefore every Christian qualifies to share that light and that hope. Every Christian ought to share, and be growing in how to share more effectively. In the context of the basics of the faith, Hebrews says, "By this time YOU ought to be teachers." (Heb. 5:12)



Every
Christian
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and hope of
Jesus.

The theological basis and practicality of this "proclaiming priesthood" pervade the New Testament. Everyday Christians gossiped the Gospel, even while suffering persecution (Acts 8:4). In Acts, Samaria was first reached, not by an apostle,

but by a table-server (Acts 8:5; 6:1-6). Tent-makers launched new missions (Acts 18:1-26; Rom. 16:3-5). Leaders exist to train and equip members "for the work of ministry" that leads to church growth (Eph. 4:12). Growth ceases wherever YOU—the everyday member—are missing from the ministry. When YOU share Jesus, New Testament-like growth surges.

But how can YOU share more effectively? Start with WBS. Seekers literally line up at WBS asking to be taught. See one such live list at worldbibleschool.org. When God creates amazing opportunities to share Jesus, caring Christians get involved... if they are wise.

Be very careful, then, how YOU live—not as unwise but as wise, *making the most of every opportunity.* (Eph. 5:15-16)



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Your 27 Soldiers

Use them to spread The Word throughout the world.



Guest editorial by Glover Shipp, retired missionary, editor and publisher AUSTIN, Texas

n my early years in printing plants, "twenty-six little soldiers" was a slogan I heard. This referred to the 26 lead letters of the alphabet in a printer's case, and the power of these letters to change the world.

As a missionary for 18 years in Brazil, my major task was publishing Christian materials in Portuguese. With invaluable help, I produced books, courses, tracts, a magazine and a hymnal. Now, nearly 30 year after my return to the States, some of these publications are still in demand. So they live on in print, and now also in electronic form... which suggests the 27th soldier.

The 26 original letters have a new addition to the family. This is the "at sign", better known as the @ sign, used in e-mail and Internet messages. They crowd the ether daily and communicate throughout the world instantaneously. They pay no heed to national boundaries or racial and political barriers.

WBS teaches students all over the globe, including nations that oppose the Bible.

While much that goes online may be meaningless babble, some of it is invaluable for information and research, especially Bible courses offered in English and other languages. Entities such as World Bible School teach students from all over the globe, including such places as China, Vietnam, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Cuba and Venezuela, nations that oppose the Bible. But these courses pay no heed to man-made barriers, and they are changing lives everywhere. continued on page 7

You Can Share

Share WBS lessons online even if you cannot travel.



Loyce Horn — HOUSTON, Texas

n 1978 the Sun Valley church of Christ asked me to go on a mission trip to St. Lucia in the Caribbean. It was there I first heard about World Bible School. A team-mate, Janet Randolph, was very excited about news of her student's baptism. I told her I would like to do that. She showed me how to become a postal teacher, which I did upon returning home to Houston.

In 1981 I moved to Dallas and interested John Pratt, an elder, in WBS. For 14 years our Skillman Avenue church group met on Wednesday evenings to send WBS lessons, and Mary Brown continued as coordinator after my return to Houston. I then began to teach via e-mail.

My husband and I went on a WBS follow-up trip to Lagos, Nigeria, with Jake Coppinger. Later we spent eight months at African Christian College in Manzini, Swaziland, where we recruited new students for WBS and also did WBS follow up.

At 89, I'm thankful to the Lord for leading me to WBS and giving me all these years of sharing the Gospel.

In 2013 health reasons required another move back to Houston. I left the postal WBS with Verna Griffin and Vicki Williams at Main Street in Dallas. As soon as I settled, I called John Reese about my desire to become a Web teacher. I am thoroughly enjoying it. At 89 I cannot be as active as I would like, so this gives me great satisfaction. I have 16 active students, with three recently

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You Can Pray

When willing students are prevented from studying. we can still pray.

ori Brady's smile welcomes visitors to our WBS office, and her voice welcomes you who phone. We tell you more about her on page 5. Along with receptionist duties. Lori assists with web inquiries and recently circulated this note to office staff:

I was assisting online students this afternoon and found this very sad message, which I have passed on to his Study Helper. I think we should pray for this young boy in South Africa.

Dear WBS,

I'm very apologetic to the staff of WBS. I can't continue with the Bible studies anymore, the reason being that my parents told me not to do this while still under their roof. All of my things from there were destroyed including

my certificates. I tried to explain to them that this is good

for me, but they told me this thing

is satanic. I'm writing this tearfully.

Please don't send me anything anymore. My address is... and my Study Helper is....

My promise to you as WBS staff is that I'll never lose faith in my Lord Jesus. I understand well that these are tests [trials] that I must pass through. In the name of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God. Amen.

Gale Scott in our financial office encouraged us: "We can never give up hope in praying for students. I remember two young teenage students I had in the 1980s who wished to be baptized but were prevented by their mother from any more contact with WBS. One of them wrote me 11 years later from a University in Northern Nigeria. He reported that he had kept all my material and was baptized at the University."

Giving to Grow the Kingdom

You can do big things in your own way.



he Bible continues to inspire me with its ability to teach, to encourage and to be an endless source of divine wisdom. Knowing that WBS helps seekers to know God and His Son motivates me on a daily basis. So many of our financial

partners feel the same way. They have captured the vision. They realize they are part of something bigger than themselves, that they are foundational for making Bible study available worldwide.

I speak to potential donors who think their gift may not make a difference because there are not a lot of zeroes on the check. Not so! Did a small boy's loaves and fish feed over 5,000? Did 12 apostles begin a movement spreading the Gospel throughout the world? Did one man lead an Exodus of God's people from Egypt to the Promised Land?

You can make a difference and do big things in your own way with your gift to WBS. Think about the following: One dollar from your gift allows one soul to study the Bible. Yes, one dollar! Suppose that one soul studies

and requests

baptism and begins telling others the saving message of Jesus. A chain reaction can begin through a single person's network, leading hundreds or thousands to Christ all from a single dollar from you!



This happens over and over through WBS (and it's reported often in these pages of *Action!*).

If you are currently a financial partner with WBS, thank you! If you are one of those thinking you cannot make a difference, think again. With God's help nothing is impossible and your gift is important. WBS has projects waiting to be funded by you—projects directly imple-

menting this focus: "You. Sharing Jesus". It's no coincidence that realizing this begins with "you".

Pat Brown is always available to talk to friends of WBS—individuals and churches. Contact him at pat@worldibleschool.net.



It's all about you.

A chain reaction

can begin, leading

thousands to Christ,

all from a single

dollar from you!

Emphasizing you—for all the right reasons.



ell, that headline doesn't sound very positive, now does it? The phrase carries quite a bit of baggage, typically used to accuse someone of selfcenteredness.

But bear with me. In the proper context *you* being the central focus takes on a whole new meaning. WBS truly is all about *you*. Through you—WBS teachers and donors—God does great things to share Jesus with hundreds of thousands of the world's lost.

And you working in partnership with WBS is hardly being self-centered. In fact, WBS teachers are by definition kind and compassionate, giving of

themselves to help guide WBS students through the Bible. WBS donors are by definition...well, *giving!* The very act of sharing of their own means funds the mission to share Jesus with more and more truth-seekers by equipping everyday Christians.

We're so thankful for everything you do for the Kingdom with us. Your gifts—both large and small—are making a real difference in so many lives. Never forget that your giving very much fulfills what we will keep on saying: WBS is *You. Sharing Jesus*.

Kevin Rhodes (MBA, CSPG) is trained and experienced to help you with planned giving. Contact him at kevin@worldibleschool.net.



Gifts by Chack

Action!

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Christmas in July?

Anytime is a good

time to honor someone with a tribute gift to WBS. But many enjoy doing so for the Christmas season. However, for Holiday tributes to appear in the November Action! the last issue of 2014—please plan on making tribute gifts in the Fall, no later than October 10.

Please make my gift a tribute.

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 "share Jesus" with WBS.

☐ I have completed my personal information on the back of this form.						
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Getting to Know Lori Brady

Lori plays several roles at the WBS offices.

orld Bible School's Cedar Park office was blessed to fill our receptionist position in May 2012 with Lori Brady. Since that time, Lori has proved a valuable asset at reception and very capably fills in for other positions as needs arise.



Lori has a background in finance with both a BBA and an MBA from University of Texas— Tyler. She left a 20-year career in banking

after the birth of her son in 2000 and stayed home for the next 12 years to raise her two children, Garrett & Gracyn, now 14 and 12 years old. Lori's husband, Charlie, works for the United States Postal Service. The family worships with the Brentwood Oaks church of Christ in Austin.

I'm so pleased to work with people who have a heart for sharing Jesus. About her work, Lori says, "I'm so pleased to be involved in this great ministry and to work with wonderful people who have such a heart for spreading the Gospel. I consider it a privilege to be able to play even a small part in helping to fulfill the mission of WBS."

As an active church member, Lori is engaged in Brentwood Oak's outreach to Ireland though "WBS Connect." She recently emailed co-workers: I just claimed a student from Ireland off Brentwood Oak's Connect Board. He is a 47 year old who describes himself as a youth pastor. In response to the question, "How long have you been learning from the Bible?" he replied, "Since age nine in Nigeria. I was able to complete the advanced course of WBS before I was 17. That was about 25 years ago." As Lori says, "Isn't that cool?" (See another note from Lori on page 2.)

Thanks to You

Steve Stewart — AUSTIN, Texas

fter John Reese came and talked on Sunday evening, we had many new teachers sign up to help. I want to welcome all our new teachers and say "thanks" for your help in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. We started with a core group of about seven teachers, and now we have jumped to about 18. Hugh Morgan is the deacon in charge of Brentwood Oaks World Bible School.

If you think of the parable of the farmer, it will help you understand the nature of WBS. We scatter "seeds" (Bible lessons) throughout the world to students interested in studying the Bible. On the postal side, we send lessons to those who may or may not have requested these lessons. The seed will fall on hard ground, and these will show no further interest. You'll have some students who start out strong but eventually wither away. Others get busy with life and also fall away. But...you'll have some students who stay strong to the end, and it's those students who will help you know that all your efforts are validated.

By a Curious Route

Roger McCown — AUSTIN, Texas

avid R. sits in his tent in
Afghanistan. He feels uneasy.
He borrows *The Purpose Driven*Life from the soldier who shares his
tent. He realizes that his life is missing
something. He devours that book and
asks for another, and another. His
friend, out of books, sends him to a
generally religious website. There, at
the bottom, is a button labeled World
Bible School. David clicks on it, then
enrolls for Bible lessons. So begins
David's journey with WBS teacher, Tim
T., of the Beltline church of Christ in
Decatur, AL.





From Afghanistan to Texas via WBS

David's tour ends not long after that and he returns to his wife and adult children in Austin. He

completes his lessons and requests baptism. But Tim is in Alabama and doesn't know anyone in Austin. Being new at this, he has some uncertainty about his next steps. Danny Truitt of Beltline decides to contact Brentwood Oaks church in Austin.

The most important thing a father can do... is lead his children to genuine faith. The call is routed to Roger McCown. He and David agree to meet the next day at Starbucks. David's wife arrives with him. He has many questions. During two months of such meetings, friendship and faith grow.

David sets a baptism date when his three children and their spouses can be present. Before he is baptized, he stands to speak to his family. His words are etched in Roger's heart. They represent the best testimony he has ever heard.

"I love you all very much. I have tried to be a good father to you and a faithful husband to your mother. I have taught you to be hardworking and to live by a high moral and ethical standard. And you are doing that. I am now 50 years old and did not know what I did not know about God's word. I have failed in the most important thing a father can do and that is lead his children to genuine faith. I don't want you to get to where I am in life and not know what I didn't know.



David puts on Christ in baptism.

What I am doing today I am doing to honor God. I hope that you will consider your own lives and come to the same conclusion."

Following his confession, he was baptized. Since that day, he has continued to worship, to read the Word and to seek opportunities for serving others. As a firefighter, he knows much about serving as a human. Now he serves as God's man. From a very dry desert to a very wet baptistery...by a curious route.

INTERNET

More on the **New Look**

In the last Action! we introduced **World Bible** School's new look and logo. **Nearly all** reaction has been positive. **Such significant** changes warrant



further explanation. In 1976 Jimmie **Lovell launched the two hemispheres** logo that has represented WBS all over the world. All who value WBS have come to cherish its well-recognized symbol. Indeed, it appears on so many pieces of literature, so many signs and decals, and so many badges in so many places that it will continue to be seen for some time.

There is, however, a special need in America where new generations must be recruited for interactive Bible studies. For many, Internet is their new way to communicate. Easy visibility on the screen of a computer or a phone favors icons that are clear and simple. Perhaps related to screen requirements, the modern movement in logos is toward simplicity. For American audiences, a detailed logosuch as one with intricate longitude and latitude lines—suggests an earlier day and age, which brings us to another challenge for WBS.

Many who should be WBS

continued on page 7

Scanning the Horizon

To shorten wait time, scan Return Sheets.

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas

■hree months ago, five congregations were using the WBS scanning system to receive their Zimbabwe student returns. Since my "Coordinator's Corner" email in April, another 20 congregations have signed up for scanning, with more considering it. If you have postal students in Zimbabwe, you should consider this system, which also points forward to more possibilities on the horizon.

Using the traditional mail system, a Zimbabwe student's Return Sheet takes at least 4-8 weeks (sometimes longer) to travel from the WBS Service Center in Harare back to you.

Using scanning, that same Return Sheet travels from Harare to you in about one week. What's the difference? The older method involves physical weight. The new turns the Return Sheet into an electronic image that is uploaded to the web. Cedar Park then notifies you that your Return Sheets are ready, and you download and print them.

Scanning gets Return Sheets back to you more quickly than regular mail and speeds up the teaching process. And it



Return Sheets by mail (above) and by scanning (below).



saves the cost of mailing across the ocean but does require you to download and print Return Sheets for grading. If you have questions about scanning, or if you would like to receive the bi-monthly "Coordinator's Corner" email, give us a call at 800-311-2006.

The Excitement Continues

Duane Morgan — YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia

Widianto, the first convert from the very first World Bible School seminar ever held in Indonesia, is visiting us in Yogyakarta and will preach tomorrow. He attended that initial seminar in Jakarta in 1995. Tex Willaims met him at that time.

Widianto told me today that I was the one who baptized him. Although I remember the day he was baptized—July 23, 1995—I did not remember who did the baptizing. I'm like Paul on that point. Praise God, there comes a time when the number that respond precludes remembering everything.

It's so exciting to hear him talk about it—his teacher in Austin, the fact that he had completed seven courses before I mailed him an invitation to that seminar, his memories of the late Nelson Kansil, an older Indonesian man who was also brought to Christ in that seminar and was faithful the rest of his life, and much

visiting us with his Christian wife and their two children, Esther and Joshua.

Widianto with his family more. Widianto was a senior in high school almost 20 years ago. He is now

continued on page 7



mark

Mark your calendar for these informative and inspirational WBS events:

Dinner Austin, TX - 6:30, July 22, Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd. RSVP: July 15

Dinner Oklahoma City. OK - 6:30. July 28 Central Oklahoma Home Builder's Event Center, 420 East Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73114. RSVP: July 21

WBS Workshop Abilene, TX - 3:00, September 21, Hilcrest Church of Christ (Family Room) WBS Workshop Searcy, AR - 2:00, September 28, College Church of Christ (Room 100)

WBS Luncheon Searcy, AR - 12:00, September 30, Harding Lectures (Founder's Room)

Dinner Nashville, TN - 6:30, October 28, Nashville Airport Marriott. RSVP: October 21

The Bible Speaks In Mozambique

Tim Brumfield — LUBBOCK, Texas

y trip to Tete in Mozambique was very fruitful. I taught the *Let the Bible Speak* course in Portuguese. Tete City has a population of 130,000 and is important for coal mining. It is a key transport city because it is where the bridge crosses the Zambezi River. Like many other African cities, basic utilities and sanitation are often poor or non-existent. However, receptivity is high as indicated by the number who came to our Let the Bible Speak seminar.

The "Escola Bíblica Mundial" ("EBM" aka World Bible School in Portuguese) is still growing. Jacob and Jayne Michael, missionaries in Chimoio, Mozambique,



The Way to Life Intro Lesson in Portugese

accepted the challenge to print the introductory lesson *O Caminho* (The Way). Jacob bought a special printer in Johannesburg, South Africa, and printed 500 copies of the booklet. The quality was very good. Half of these were entrusted to Samuel Mtaula in Tete and half to Owen Ruraca in Messica. Both of these evangelists have already started distributing them, and already students are asking for lesson two. Now World Bible School is scrambling to get this second booklet ready for printing. Brothers, this is a great ministry to be involved in. If you can help, please let me (*tbrumfield*. *sibi@gmail.com*) or Robin Cannon (*robin@worldbibleschool*. *net*) know.



Portuguese-speaking Christians in Mozambique

Notice: Stamps Needed

Harry Cybulski (2040 Walden Ct., Flint, MI 48532-2421) still collects and saves both U.S. and foreign stamps on behalf of WBS. He collects and sorts the stamps, puts them into packets and sells them to stamp collectors. He then sends the proceeds to WBS. Please save your stamps and forward them to him for this special commitment he has made on behalf of WBS. Harry, many thanks to you for many years of this service.

Your 27 Soldiers from page 2

To continue functioning, WBS and similar services need you as volunteer teachers and sponsors. As the Lord works through you, they will continue to reach the most remote parts of the earth, with the saving message of Christ.

You Can Share from page 2

completing all the courses. I am thankful to the Lord for leading me to WBS and giving me all these years of sharing the Gospel. My hope is to continue this as long as I live. I would recommend to any young person to start early and find the satisfaction I have found. I mention places and names for I feel fortunate to have shared such a rewarding journey with so many special people.

More on the New Look from page 6

teachers and supporters have not heard of WBS. They think it belongs to the past century — having no idea that WBS leads the charge into the 21st century. They've never heard of "Service Centers" in target nations and "Connect" for targeted advertising, much less electronic scanning that speeds students' answers back to postal teachers (see page 6). They assume lessons are stale but have not checked lately to discover freshness and attractiveness. Least of all do they know that WBS leads the field in innovative, electronic outreach.

Thinking of WBS as old fashioned, they hardly pause to consider it. Now the new look says to them, "Look again! This

is the new WBS!" This outreach is more relevant than ever, especially in the United States. There was a time when a knock on a door was welcomed. Times have changed. Today there is an emphasis on privacy, choice and control. Americans prefer to be in charge of any new contact.

WBS is relevant to our age and helps explain why 200,000 have enrolled through WBS Internet.

Seekers often use search words on a computer in the security of their homes. They are cautious about denominations and sects. After a search, they still want to stay in control, to set the pace and to develop relationships according to their comfort level.

Do we also realize we have just described advantages special to WBS? It starts at a safe distance. By teaching just the Bible, it avoids denominationalism and gradually grows relationships. This is a method especially suited to our age and helps to explain why nearly 200,000 Americans have enrolled through WBS Internet. Many Christians, unaware that God is opening new doors, still puzzle over how to reach fellow-Americans. They need to discover WBS, which we encourage with the new WBS look, and which we hope you will promote at every opportunity. The result will be hundreds of thousands more taught in North America and around the world.

The Excitement Continues from page 6

I'm glad that Marty and Julie Johnson (here in Yogyakarta) are getting the chance to hear his thrilling story. Marty and I currently have 32 students attending English classes with the Bible as text. About half of those are WBS students here in Yogyakarta.

Last summer, I visited with Christians across Indonesia, many brought to Christ through WBS. Widianto makes a better presentation than I ever could because his excitement and gratitude are so infectious. God bless you and the WBS teachers who are such effective partners in finding folks.



He Will Change Your Life

An Italian perspective

Steve and Bonnie Stewart spearhead WBS Internet teaching at the Brentwood Oaks church of Christ in Austin, TX. One of Bonnie's students is Marcella, a (former) Catholic "sister"—similar to a nun—who met World Bible School while serving in Ethiopia. Later she returned to Italy, from where she sent this evaluation of WBS lessons:

had been looking for a Bible course for ages, but it should have had certain characteristics: It should have been free and good, of course

What I used to find was generally something boring and not really about the Bible itself. It was something Catholic and with dogmas from the Catholic Church.

These WBS courses have been for me an interesting journey through the Bible.

When I found this [WBS] course I immediately appreciated it because it was free and I saw that there was a test at the end of each lesson. That helps to deepen the lessons and to be serious. Otherwise, you may like the content, but there is the risk of forgetting a lot. The lessons are

divided in different sections of increasing importance, and the tests become more demanding, involving your life, your thoughts and your choices. You can also revisit the lessons later on, and you'll receive a certificate at the end of each course.

Halfway through [i.e. in advanced courses], there were also free research topics to go deeper, at our choice, with a lot of quotations to help us on each theme.

This Bible course has been for me a journey through the Bible from a very interesting perspective. I am very grateful to those who prepared it and gave it free.

I'll recommend this course to everyone. It's not only a course; there is the hand of God leading you through it and He will change your life.

See Steve's encouragement on page 5.

upcoming...

You. Sharing Jesus.



We continue the theme in the September issue.



You. Sharing Jesus.

POSTMASTER:

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