



Anyone can share Jesus as a WBS Study Helper. Apply today.

Hi. This is World Bible School.

See the compelling
2 minute story of
Gary and Santiago at
worldbibleschool.net

What Is God's Top Priority for Planet Earth?

Surely His greatest concern has to do with His greatest intervention, the giving of His Son to rescue all.

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

What is God's top priority for planet Earth? Surely His greatest concern has to do with His greatest intervention, the giving of His Son to rescue all on planet Earth.

What is God doing right now for that top priority? Raising up workers who share His heart. Giving them ways to share Jesus. Extending their reach to as many as possible, as widely as possible, as swiftly as possible. When speaking of God, the concept of "possible" takes on dimensions never dreamed of before.

The truth is, God does not grow weary or change direction. He is fulfilling the purpose of His Son's death. He is giving opportunities to as many as possible to receive cleansed in His blood. To get the message out, He is accomplishing things unheard of and unimagined before. For example, my phone has an app that enables instant, cost-free communication with my children in under-developed nations across the globe. Today's tools include things that now seem familiar: Internet, mail and email, cell phones, broadcasts, social media, scanning, and more.

Without realizing how surreal such innovations feel to earlier generations, our young people take

them as "normal." As a matter of course, they spend hours on their devices, playing, socializing, learning and shopping. What is God's interest in all this? For believers, God is making the sharing of their faith almost literally one click away, especially with user-friendly World Bible School. Such advances are not accidental. God is equipping and training His children to communicate the saving Gospel at lightning speed across the planet. They can share Jesus with friends and strangers, both near and far. Interactions can grow into relationships that blossom rapidly and across great distances. God is working powerfully and He urges you to join in His mission of mercy.



in this
issue

- p1 God's top priority
- p2 Sharing Jesus
- p3 Funding the mission
- p4-5 Tributes & honors
- p6 Working notes
- p7 Around the world
- p8 Connecting

Advancing Internet Outreach

WBS technology lets you teach more, more effectively.



Jonathan Towell — LUBBOCK, Texas

We are pleased to announce three big updates to the WBS website.

Earlier Access to Students

Web students are now being placed on the Student Board as soon as they register. Prior to this change, Web students had to complete the Introductory lesson first. Now, teachers can send newly registered

students encouragement notes or even adopt the student before the first lesson is completed. Our hope is that an encouraging body of WBS study helpers will motivate more students to complete more Bible lessons.

Connect Is Now Free

Connect is now available at no cost for a one year experiment. Congregations or individuals who want to reach seekers in their hometown or a mission field can now get started with no upfront financial investment.



A Personal URL for Finding Students

To make free Connect more accessible to every WBS study helper, each one can get a personal Connect Web address with a single click. With it, a study helper can have a Web address to share on Facebook, place in an email signature or print on a business card. When a seeker enrolls for Bible study via that link, that seeker will study with

the study helper who shared that link. Imagine offering Bible study to your friends on Facebook... or with a Web address on a business card...or as a link with every email you send... giving so many people a chance to learn from Scripture with you, a Christian they can trust.

This is WBS Connect. You can get started today, at no cost

First, apply to teach at www.worldbibleschool.net/teach. After your application is approved, you can login to www.worldbibleschool.org. From there, you'll be able to encourage and adopt your first student. This is also where you can set up Connect for yourself or your congregation.

Seekers are waiting. The tools are simple. The time is now. Join us.

The Lord at Work: 18 Months Report

Editor's note: Action! is prepared long before its production deadline. This issue was prepared even earlier because of my African travels. In April, I asked Danny Truitt to supply an update of progress made by Beltline church in Decatur, AL. Here is Danny's report showing the status after 18 months (through April) of using WBS Connect and its remarkable toolbox.



Danny and Deborah Truitt

- 53 current WBS teachers (49 registered online and 4 unregistered)
- 176 new students (just in April) — 111 web and 65 postal (131 from Connect)
- 86 active students — 65 web and 21 postal (71 from Connect)
- 2,263 students taught to date — 1,429 web and 834 postal (1,652 from Connect, 510 from student referrals, 101 from Benevolence referrals)
- 51 known baptisms

“To the End of the Earth”

Tom Langley — President, WEI
GRESHAM, Oregon

When the first disciples heard their commission, “Go into all the world,” they must have been overwhelmed. Today the world’s population is 24 times larger than then. Yet the commission is more attainable because of the reach and speed of technology, especially interactive Bible studies via Internet. World Bible School has set the gold standard for correspondence Bible study for decades. Now WBS and World English Institute (WEI) have remarkable teaching web sites and active students in every country of the world.

Take Mongolia as an example. In the last eight years, WEI has registered over 10,000 students for Bible study in that nation where churches of Christ seemed non-existent. This April, WEI hosted a large reception for their students in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar. After the reception our team of six Christians studied with many of these students for two weeks. There are now 15 baptized believers in Ulaanbaatar. These students had been studying the Bible for months and years on the WEI web site. They were ready to make a decision. They have become the Lord’s church there.



These baby Christians will be nurtured and taught through Skype technology and a missionary in China who has committed to going there frequently and helping guide the young church. Thanks to Internet correspondence ministries like WBS and WEI, “Go into all the world...” is not so overwhelming after all. Praise God for these ministries and modern tools of communication!

WEI's teaching team in Mongolia



Campaign 360 for 2015!

You can be a part of something extraordinary.



Look at the numbers on a compass. You'll notice they go from zero to three hundred sixty. When you look at the world with a 360 degree view, it means you are looking at all directions. That is what "Go into all the world" means for WBS on a regular basis.

This year, however, it has taken on an extra meaning with our 2015 Campaign 360. What is it?

A group of supporters of WBS have committed to giving \$360,000 toward a matching fund to help us find new donors and increase current donors in 2015.

Right now, as a first time donor to WBS, your gift will be effectively doubled. If you are a current donor (including churches), any amount you give to WBS above last year's gift will also be effectively doubled. Campaign 360 allows WBS to continue its commitment to the Great Commission by finding new students for projects in places which need your financial partnership.

W B S · C A M P A I G N



Here are a few of the projects Campaign 360 will help to fund:

1. Ghana PREP—WBS being taught in public schools in Ghana, Africa
2. Bibles for students, including for Ghana's public school students
3. 1 million new WBS students worldwide
4. Technology for increased students studying online (24/7)

God is opening great doors for WBS—allowing you to be a part of something extraordinary.

Will you take a moment today to give a gift or begin a monthly commitment? You can go to www.worldbibleschool.net/give right now. Or mail your gift today. Please give generously to WBS today and allow others to study the Bible in your community and around the world.

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

Give Online with Confidence



Over the last generation, online purchasing and giving has become commonplace and supremely safe—despite the very occasional negative headline.

Giving online may be the easiest, most convenient way for you to give—especially if you choose to give on a recurring basis. When you give online at www.worldbibleschool.net/give, you can rest assured that your giving is safe. Like at a retail store, it is a third party company—not WBS—that actually processes our online gift transactions. Companies like this comply with the highest industry security

standards requiring thorough reviews of information technology environments, and information security policies and procedures.

Your credit card number is not even shared with WBS itself. While we will keep a record of your online giving, the details of your card are not known to WBS—only the highly secure, standards-compliant company that processes the gift.

When you give online, know that you are giving securely to share Jesus.

Kevin Rhodes (MBA, CSPG) can help you with impactful planned giving. Contact him at kevin@worldbibleschool.net.



WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

Action!

Editor: John Reese

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(You can give securely online: worldbibleschool.net/give)

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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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Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

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Address _____

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Thank You, Carl Mitchell!



John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Carl Mitchell (89) recently retired from the Board of World Bible School. His many years of Kingdom experience brought a treasure of wisdom to guide WBS. He and Frankie encouraged me in my role as WBS president, and re-emphasized the grand spiritual and promotional principles on which their friend Jimmie Lovell had launched WBS.

Carl and Frankie’s list of accomplishments is long and profound. After 18 years in Italy, their contact and influence there has been continuous. Carl was a professor of Psychology and Theology at Pepperdine for 20 years, then a professor of Theology, Missiology and Christian Counseling at Harding University for 23 years. He also served as Dean at both universities.

Harding’s president Dr. Bruce McLarty sums up Carl’s influence this way:

Dr. Carl Mitchell, an icon at Harding University where he served as the Dean of the College of Bible for seven years, was the creative force behind Harding’s Marriage and Family Therapy program and has long served as a wise and trusted counselor to Harding presidents. Dr. Mitchell is a man of many talents and interests.... Everyone who knows the Mitchells is keenly aware of their deep affection for their adopted homeland [Italy].

The Mitchells bless WBS similarly. They currently live in Mesquite, Texas.

Carl has written extensively, and you can find theological articles by him at www.searchforbiblicaltruth.com/library.



from page 6 - **Scanning for Speed**

This is one-way scanning, where WBS gets Return Sheets to you faster, and only in Zimbabwe—for now.

Lord willing, we launch another pilot project in Ghana this fall. What will be different? PREP (Partners in Religious Education Project) uses WBS courses alongside other curricula in public schools. Since we must function within the school term time-frame, we must be able to time the correspondence between students and Study Helpers. Enter two-way scanning. If churches were able to scan and upload their responses to students, then “postal WBS” would enter a whole new world.

We approximate that the turnaround time for exchanges between students and teacher to be about two weeks. To anyone with much experience in traditional WBS postal correspondence study, this is a stratospheric leap forward.

And if this project works as we expect to in Ghana, WBS will look to the rest of the world. We are, after all, **World** Bible School, and as technology makes the world smaller, the progress of the Great Commission becomes greater.

WBS is actively seeking partner churches with our Ghana PREP project. If you’d like to learn more, contact us at ghana.prep@worldbibleschool.net.



The WBS Board Members have inspired and promoted WBS’ decisive move into the use of 21st century technology. Board members pictured are (front left) Shep Strong, Billie Jean Adams, Doug Trowbridge, Patsie Trowbridge, Charla Griffy-Brown, Russ Albright; (back left) Terry Childers, Keith Rall, Al Campbell, Chuck Gentry, Chuck Wilson, Dennis Raesener, Fred Heath, David Burks, Howard Norton.



A new addition to the WBS Board is Charles Ganus of Searcy, AR, pictured here with his wife Patty.

Sunset & WBS Tech Partnership

Robin Cannon — CEDAR PARK, Texas

The Sunset International Biblical Institute (Sunset) has long been developing the content for the solar-powered audio player technology now available. The solar player effectively places the encyclopedic course lectures of Sunset into the hands of thousands of church members and leaders in targeted areas of Africa. WBS partners with Sunset by providing the evangelistic component of the player’s content. The Phase One release of the player



included the WBS Master Series voiced by Charles Ellis of the Oldham Lane church in Abilene, Texas. The Phase Two release in March added WBS’ “Guide to New Testament Christianity.” With WBS’s evangelistic lead-in for listeners, and the rich biblical study in Sunset’s course lectures, many people have

the opportunity to learn of God and delve deeply into His Word. We commend Sunset and praise God for the innovative ways available to share Jesus.



Three Flavors of **CONNECT**

Jonathan Towell — LUBBOCK, Texas

WBS Connect is our most flexible tool for churches, individuals or groups who want to find Bible students. I want to tell you some stories that illustrate just a few possibilities.

Connect Caribbean

The Beltline church of Christ in Decatur, Alabama, uses WBS Connect and WBS Web Ads to reach seekers in the Caribbean. WBS Web Ads are a way for congregations to advertise Bible study on the Internet. Over 1,000 people have signed up to study the Bible through this effort.

Connect Personal

Kami, at the Westside church of Christ in Round Rock, Texas, set up a WBS Connect personal campaign. She shared her campaign link on Facebook. Three of her friends quickly joined her for Bible study.

Connect College Station

Billie Jean decided to use WBS Web Ads to promote Bible study in her hometown of College Station, Texas. Only a few hours later, the first student registered to study via postal mail.

WBS teachers are placing WBS Connect web addresses on business cards, flyers, websites, Facebook, TV shows, radio shows and everywhere in between. In the first three months of 2015, over 3,500 students registered through Connect. These are students in targeted areas. Many are already in contact with the local church, but simply needed that extra step to begin study in God's Word.

WBS Connect helps you connect your community with the Bible. It is simple, free and available to every WBS teacher. Write to connect@worldbibleschool.net for help getting started.

High Tech and Postal: **A Winning Combination**

Brian Davis — CEDAR PARK, Texas

The Hillcrest church in Abilene, Texas, has had a postal WBS program for 32 years. Recently the congregation began to expand into Web teaching through their Connect program of local evangelism. A number of their new contacts made through the Web have requested postal studies. In fact, among Connect programs targeting the U.S., about one out of three WBS enrollees choose to study postal lessons. Furthermore, the postal team is exploring new ways for technology to reduce the turn-around time for lesson returns.

In a recent recruitment and training meeting, many of the younger generation were attracted to the Web-based study tools of WBS. At the same time, many others were attracted to the team work dynamic of the postal team. Most importantly, both groups grew in appreciation for one another and learned how, together, evangelism is more effective!

The majority of the world can still study Bible correspondence by mail, but an ever increasing number of people are gaining access to the Web. Going into all the world includes a faithful proclamation of the Gospel in both arenas. WBS seeks to provide excellent tools to make postal programs and high-tech programs a winning combination!

Paula Leverett, WBS Coordinator, and Don Pope, elder, of Hillcrest in Abilene



Scanning for Speed

Robin Cannon — CEDAR PARK, Texas
Speed. Efficiency. Costs.

These are the challenges that accompany any system of correspondence, and World Bible School wrestles with them mightily. With more Study Helpers using digital communications, and most students still using pen and paper,



Maideyi Tandri scans answers.

we have an opportunity to see what current technology can do for the Great Commission.

Three years ago WBS began experiments using scanning to enhance speed, efficiency and savings. We set up a high-speed scanner and computer at our Service Center in Zimbabwe and recruited churches willing to try a new experience. Our Zimbabwe staff receives Return Sheets, scans them, and uploads to Internet file sharing for the participating churches. WBS teaching teams then download and print the Return Sheets and grade them just as they always have, but they are getting them weeks, even months faster! And on average, they save about 15 cents per student, per exchange.

continued on page 5

Meet Your WBS Technical Crew, the dedicated experts who handle technical aspects of Internet teaching, WBS Connect, scanning, general IT and much more: Jonathan Towell, Edie Connell, Spencer Hamm and Gary Evans.



An Unimaginable Meeting

Laura Metz — MEMPHIS, Tennessee

Tina Skinner, from Alabama, met Alma, a WBS student from the Philippines, for a quick cup of coffee. Where did they meet?

At Starbucks. In the mall. *In Kuwait.*


Tina became a WBS Internet teacher after hearing great reports from others at her home congregation of Beltline church of Christ, Decatur, AL. When Alma, her first student, shared that she was temporarily moving from the Philippines to Kuwait for work, Tina was ecstatic. Tina and her husband were preparing for a trip to Kuwait themselves, to visit family with a new grandbaby.



For her part, Alma was just as thrilled. “She was so excited to meet her ‘teacher’ that it humbled me,” Tina writes. “She

Tina planted a seed, one that Alma has passed on to her friends.

refers to me as teacher as if I’m someone special. I’m trying to help her understand it is God’s word which is special and I’m just trying to help her learn.”

Tina planted a seed, a seed Alma has already passed on to others by inviting her Facebook “friends” to study with WBS. You, too, can plant a seed by adopting a student today. Join us, and watch God make that seed grow. 

Students Praise Teachers, Courses, Speed

Editor’s note: We have the blessing of reading—and seeing first-hand—the amazing power of God at work through WBS students and their study helpers. While just a drop in the bucket, these pages of Action! often share some of those examples. Here are more.

“ I am really enjoying studying with World Bible School. My tutor replies quickly with incredible insight into the word. It is designed in a way which makes it easy to do a small amount or larger amount of study depending on time. [It keeps you] working at it to add to your knowledge and understanding. I would 100% recommend this study!

I would 100% recommend this study!

“ This study and my tutor have been a complete and total blessing! My new found faith actually started through an argument on Facebook. Thank God for unseen blessings and undeniable grace! Not sure I would still be following God if it wasn’t for the way Mr. Delino explains it to me on whatever I may be confused on. I hope everyone at least tries it and prays for just a month and see what changes are brought to your lives! God bless WBS.



“ As a new believer, hungry to know God more, I applied for WBS courses and had a most wonderful teacher from Canada who encouraged me. Those were my most precious years as a teenager, to have someone take me through the Scriptures from many thousands of miles across the globe. I am a grown woman now with three kids, but I’ve never forgotten that experience and my teacher.

“ I first started to study with WBS in May 2009 but stopped my study due to circumstances in my life. But praise be to God I’m back and it’s worth it. Even if you think you don’t have time, try it. Anyway, you study at your own pace. No one pushes you, and if you don’t understand the lesson, your study helper will go over again with you any kind of questions you may have about the Gospel. Your helper will get you through it, and, as you finish one course, you’ll receive a certificate that you can print and hang. But the true reward is your growth and development in Christ Jesus.

Teachers Love It, Too

“ I absolutely LOVE this site as I see lives being changed and God’s Word being taught to those all over the world. Praise God for all the love and hours spent by so many to bring World Bible School to where it is today—a means to carry out Matthew 28:19-20 without leaving my office.



Others on the team include Robin Canon, Sheryl Williams, Rusty Brown and Laura Metz. We thank God for each and every one of them, and for the entire team God is using so effectively for local and global outreach!



from WBS’ Facebook page:

“ A word of appreciation to the entire staff and to the managing directors of World Bible School for giving me such an opportunity to be closer to God at any given point in time through the reading and guidelines to understand what the scripture is all about. Great job, keep on.

Internet Cuts Both Ways

Did you see the April 3, 2015, *USA Today* headline: “Islamic faith is faster-growing”? The Pew Research Center projects that “Muslims will outnumber Christians by 2070, ending two millennia of Christian domination.” It’s hard to imagine Pew or its equivalent keeping track that far back. But that doesn’t lessen their point that “Islam is projected to grow more than twice as fast as any other major religion over the next half-century because of a



higher fertility rate.” *So, should New Testament Christians just accept Islamic domination as another inevitable trend?*

How often are you hearing broadcasts that report, “ISIS uses social media to recruit terrorists”? They reach millions with their message and even recruit thousands of Westerners. *So, should New Testament Christians just acquiesce? Do we passively hand over the Internet to those who recruit, radicalize and intimidate with ghastly executions?*

Have you noticed? While we wonder how to reach young people, the opposition clearly believes in the Internet’s power to target and influence youth. Their recruits tend to be between 18-29 years old. Further, they put their money where their faith is. They invest millions in social media. Matt Olsen, former director



of National Counterterrorism says, “Groups like ISIS have a very sophisticated propaganda machine, in fact the most sophisticated propaganda we’ve seen from any terrorist organization.” *So, is our passion for good greater than theirs for evil? Do we as New Testament Christians put our money where our faith is?*

Some say that World War III has started. Regardless, we all are engulfed in a far greater war already. It began this side of Eden. It surged to fiercer intensity on earth when heaven cast out our enemy, the Dragon (Revelation 12; Ephesians 6). If we as New Testament Christians are to take the offensive, this is the time! If we really want to reach further and swifter, we will invest sacrificially in the Internet and other modern media. They are God’s tools for Good News, not the devil’s for bad news.

Preparing for PREP in Ghana **PREP stands for *Partners in Religious Education Project*. The current operation links American WBS Study Helpers with Ghanaian high schoolers. To fit the trimester framework of Ghana’s public schools, WBS lessons are being shipped to a WBS PREP Center in Accra, Ghana, for delivery to 40 schools. Here WBS staff load WBS sets for 16,000 high school students (112,000 course books). The container also contains 50,000 WBS Intros for the Gospel Chariot work and Bibles for the Village of Hope.**



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