

CONNECT WITH SEEKERS

WITH SEEKERS



John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Are you connecting with seekers in your target community?

Please consider World Bible School if you are serious about finding and teaching truth-seekers.

Let's clarify that the Great Commission's scope is much broader than seekers. Jesus sends the Good News to "every creature"—whether seeking or not. This truth inspires the slogan quoted often by Jimmie Lovell: "Every person has more right to hear the Gospel once than any one person has to hear it twice." The Great Commission's universal reach demonstrates the truth that "God so loved the world"—every individual worldwide. His Son died for the sins of "the whole world," not just ours (1 John 2:2). The Great Commission also deals with this reality: we can neither read hearts nor pre-select seekers. Therefore Gospel opportunities must go to all without favoritism.

When we pursue the Commission's full scope, responders surprise us. Consider Corinth. To "corinthianize" meant to corrupt with gross immorality. Even Paul became discouraged there, to which the Lord replied,

Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are My people (Acts 18:9-10).

The Great Commission: We must give real Gospel opportunities to each and every person.

The Lord could see what Paul could not, that many would respond. So Paul stayed, "teaching the Word of God among them" (Acts 18:11). God's Word did the sifting. It repelled some, attracted others, and surfaced seekers.

Since we can neither foresee nor force responses, we must give real Gospel opportunities to each and every person. This implies meeting them where they are (seldom in our buildings).

Along with other places, they are on computers. Many seekers are typing "search" words into "search" engines. WBS Internet and WBS Connect provide ways to meet and teach them. Find out more as we explore the theme of connections.

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Billie's Initiative to Connect

Paul Atkinson — BRYAN, Texas

My mother, Billie Jean Adams, serves on the WBS Board. She has asked that we help her better develop outreach in the Brazos Valley via WBS Internet. Our Connect site is www.brazosbiblestudy.com.

We have produced and broadcast five radio spots on the local Christian radio station Peace 107. Three radio spots encourage people to use www.brazosbiblestudy.com. Two spots remind people to share www.brazosbiblestudy.com with their friends and family. Mom also posted www.brazosbiblestudy.com in the local social arena. With that one posting she had 65 individuals go to the site and want to study. The church office then posted this information and recruited seven of our members to help teach these 65 online. We have already had over 100 individuals go to the site. We also plan on using other well-known Christian voices in the Brazos Valley.

WBS helps produce thousands of conversions around the world to the Lord every year. Just think of the possibilities it has in our own backyard. Please be in prayer for this ministry and its success locally and around the globe.



Billie Jean Adams

Connecting with Ghana's Schools

Robin Cannon — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Nyame adom. "By God's grace." I

think I heard that phrase more often in five recent weeks in Accra, Ghana, than in my entire life. This expression and the power of God's grace was impressed on me so often that they are emblazoned on my memory. I was privileged to work with our gentle and loving Ghanaian brethren to establish the Partners in Religious Education Project (PREP) office in July. WBS now has an office dedicated to two-way scanning of WBS course Return Sheets, a PREP coordinator, new inroads with the Ghana Education Service and a growing network of PREP partners in the Accra area.



Due to ground-laying trips by Ron Pottberg and John Reese, I was able to go straight into office setup and hiring. Both went well. Within four days of my arrival, Charles Odoi agreed to be our PREP Coordinator. Renovations on the office were already complete, so now we needed dedicated, reliable Internet. I could write a short novel on the experience—but suffice it to say that God's grace works even in the world of computers and even through set-backs (such as torrential rains).

Charles instantly proved to be a real asset to PREP. We are grateful to have him as a partner. His maturity in Christ, his proven dedication to the ministry of the Word and his personal discipline have already moved PREP forward. Please pray for Charles as he guides PREP in Ghana.

Our connection to the Ghana Education Service is one of the hinges of the project. PREP is the brainchild of August Tawiah, Chief Inspector of Schools. I followed Augustine Tawiah's lead in meeting key people in the Education Service, including the Director of Curriculum Research and Development and the Director



Charles Odoi

Editor's Note: In the March 2015 issue, Sharon wrote about looking into World Bible School at Mayfair church in Huntsville, AL. Her research led her and others to start a WBS program at Washington Street church, Fayetteville, TN. She now shares this update. Sharon's story highlights a benefit Americans may enjoy in teaching fellow-Americans... the opportunity to visit personally!

Connecting Americans

Sharon Walker — FAYETTEVILLE, Tennessee

In May 2015, my husband Don and I visited Naomi Brooks of Thomasville, GA. Naomi is special; she's the first student baptized through Fayetteville's WBS Connect outreach. In route, we witnessed the beauty of God's nature as well as an ugly altercation among races. It was a reminder of how mixed up this world away from God is. In Thomasville, we met the preacher and others at the church building. They were preparing for the start of a Gospel meeting. We felt at home immediately and connected to this multi-racial congregation of about 60. Naomi calls it *her* congregation. Recently they assisted Naomi to move into a better apartment. Lori Curtis is her volunteer transport.



Don, Naomi and Sharon

Both elders led services. Garland Basford (elder) led us in uplifting praise. Rick Kenyon preaches and Thomas Wise serves as personal work director. Naomi completed all seven WBS courses. Naomi then completed Jule Miller studies and anticipates reviewing the updated Jule Miller videos. Naomi's daughter, Akia, is the first adolescent to complete WBS Children's series with our help—another special 'first'.

All the brethren there were a joy to meet. Over a fellowship meal, we enjoyed learning their life-stories and relating to mutual friends. They love Naomi and encourage her to stay strong as the spiritual leader of five children and two grandchildren. Her son, Tyrice, was baptized in February.

Upon returning home, Don and I dropped our heads in thanksgiving for having experienced a bit of heaven on earth. There are no words to thank all who make the WBS work possible and expand God's Kingdom both here and around the world. May God bless each and every one.

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Campaign 360 Offers Extraordinary Opportunity!

Unity has a multiplying effect.



We have entered the time of year for WBS dinners around the country. The kickoff dinner of 2015 was held August 7th in Austin, Texas, with Oklahoma City quickly following. There is

something powerful about WBS supporters joining for a meal, to hear exciting updates and to be challenged by opportunities to partner with WBS. It truly brings to mind the verse in Ecclesiastes about "...a cord of three strands is not easily broken." Jesus knew of the power of being unified for a common goal of serving the Father and being "as one" (John 17:21).

The theme of this year's dinner program is WBS Connections. If you are able to be present at one of the dinners, you'll hear and see the connections being made locally and globally. One very powerful connection is a donor matching fund to create Campaign 360.

Right now your gift can be doubled.

Campaign 360 is your opportunity to join in a unifying and doubling effort of your gifts in 2015. A group of donors have pledged \$360,000 as a challenge gift to enhance fundraising efforts in 2015! Right now, as a first time donor to WBS

your gift will be doubled. If you are a current donor, any amount you give to WBS above last year's gift year will also be doubled.

Opportunities don't come along like this too often, so it's the perfect time to say "Yes" to WBS with a gift. Make your \$100 gift become \$200. Make your \$1,000 gift become \$2,000. This is truly a unique situation and a great time to help you make the decision to share your blessings. If you or your congregation were waiting for the right time, that time is now! Please give generously to WBS today to empower your fellow-Christians to share Jesus in your own community and around the world. WBS is You. Sharing Jesus.

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



Small or Large?

Pat just reminded us of the opportunity provided by Campaign 360. In our history, WBS has never had a matching gift grant approaching the amount of \$360,000. That's quite an amount to match, one that will require the generosity of all kinds of donors, large and small.

Matching grants are especially helpful at spurring grass roots giving—that is, new and additional gifts across a broad swath of donors. Those who give towards the match and make the greatest impact as a whole are typically not those who give very large gifts.

But a goal of \$360,000 affords a special opportunity for some larger gifts to have their impact effectively doubled. One consideration that we remind of is the gift of appreciated shares of stock or mutual funds. As the markets continue a long bull run, appreciated shares can provide a significant tax benefit, while making a real difference in world evangelism. Donating appreciated shares can let most donors avoid paying any capital gains tax on the appreciated amount, while taking the full gift amount as a tax deduction for the gift year.

What role can you play in Campaign 360? Any qualifying gift, large or small, will help share Jesus with a host of seekers throughout the world.

Kevin Rhodes (MBA, CSPG) can help you with impactful planned giving. Contact him at 800-311-2006.

Action!

Editor: John Reese

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I want to give **this amount now:**
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is enclosed.

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph _____
(day) (night)

E-mail _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a WBS teacher or I have been sometime in the past.

I want to make a commitment by joining **Sowing the Seed.**

I'll give this amount **Monthly:**

\$30/mo

\$60/mo

\$100/mo

\$ _____/mo

I'll give this amount **Annually:**

\$300/yr

\$600/yr

\$1,000/yr

\$ _____/yr

Please charge my **credit card** for the amount at left.

Visa Discover MasterCard
 Amex Other _____

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

Card No: _____

Expiration: ____/____/____

Name (as on card) _____

Signature: _____

I'm setting up **Automatic Bill Pay** from my bank.

My gift is a **Tribute**. See the back of this form.

Tell me more about: will planning
 income-producing gift options
 I am } including WBS in my will
 I am considering } or other estate plans.

Wall of Honor



Reeses view plaque honoring Oleta.

More names are adorning the Ruth Orr Wall of Honor. Latest additions include Alice Ann Bradshaw (Singing Oaks, Denton), Ed and Leona Brannon (Westover Hills, Austin), Ken Heflin (West Olive, Peoria) and John McNeil (Bellevue, Nashville).

Whom should *you* add to the Wall of Honor? It may be your spouse, your relative, a beloved friend or a respected member—anyone who has blessed others through World Bible School.

John and Beth Reese families sponsored a plaque for Beth’s mother, Oleta Paden. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren visited and saw the tribute paid to her, reinforcing in their own lives her godly example. Shortly thereafter, Oleta (90) underwent heart and hip surgeries and is now recovering. Lord willing, she’ll have more years to bless the next generations personally, and beyond that her legacy of love, service and outreach will help to shape their futures.



WBS honors Paula Leverett.

Leaders of the Hillcrest church of Christ proposed Paula Leverett and arranged a surprise unveiling with Paula and Lynn present. Friends travelled from Abilene for a special day with the Cedar Park WBS staff dedicated to honoring the Leveretts. Long-time missionary for Hillcrest, Brian Davis, now works with WBS and helped to organize the celebration. As you read Brian’s article (next), picture Paula. Though she has not lived permanently overseas, her use of WBS in campaign work has built lasting

relationships that have led many to Christ, helped to establish many congregations and strengthened existing works.

Who do you have in mind for the Wall of Honor? Here is your opportunity. For details, email honor@worldbibleschool.net or Sheryl at 800-311-2006.

Long-Term Relationships in Short-Term Missions

Brian Davis — CEDAR PARK, Texas

As international travel has become more accessible, our brotherhood’s short-term mission efforts have expanded tremendously. One of the great challenges this reality presents is discovering ways by which our short-term endeavors can have on-going results for Christ’s Kingdom. This past June and July, several campaign groups set out with the objective of using World Bible School tools to provide answers to this challenge.

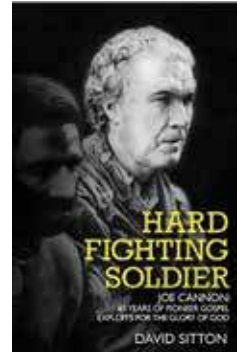
From Guyana in South America to Zimbabwe in Africa, groups participating in short-term Gospel meetings, relief efforts and church planting have made use of World Bible School correspondence courses both by postal and Internet. Relationships formed during short-term experiences can be prolonged in the healthy environment of correspondence Bible studies. Two-week friendships can be lengthened into life-long friendships in this very rewarding way. Have you considered how to lengthen the impact of your short-term missions?



A Texas campaigner in Africa

Connect with Courage & Character

Joe and Rosa Belle Cannon, parents of our own Robin Cannon (page 2), spearheaded post-war missions to Japan, Okinawa and Papua New Guinea. Joe was the first of many visiting missionary teachers at Harding University and founded Mission 1000. After Rosa Belle died, and well into his 80s, he focused mission travels on Ukraine with his wife Betty. With help from family and friends, David Sitton chronicles Joe’s 65 years of pioneering exploits in a new book, *Hard Fighting Soldier*, available at www.toeverytribe.org, www.amazon.com and Christian bookstores. This inspiring read is an ideal gift to our generations who need to re-connect with courage and sacrifice in pursuit of the greatest mission on earth.

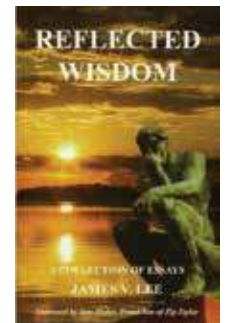


James Lee

James Lee of Southside in Fort Worth, TX, has published five books. His latest, *Reflected Wisdom*, shares life-insights. He writes to us, “My interest in World Bible School goes back half a century. My support over the years has been modest,

with which I was never satisfied. *Reflected Wisdom* has made its way into prisons all across Texas where each copy is read by about 20 inmates. Since many of the essays deal with moral issues right out of the Bible, some of the prisoners see themselves and their future in a new, optimistic light. So an idea occurred to me how the book might keep blessing people and also multiply contributions to WBS.” Thank you, James, for sharing your essays and a generous portion of sales to benefit WBS.

To order, email and request *Reflected Wisdom* from Mike at msocolov@jpsgraphics.com.



TAKE THIS PAGE TO YOUR CHURCH LEADERS. LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU CAN

Share Jesus

anywhere you choose with

WBS | CONNECT



WBS CONNECT USES WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL'S TOOLS TO HELP YOU FIND AND TEACH PEOPLE WHO WANT TO STUDY THE BIBLE. TARGET YOUR COMMUNITY AND MISSION POINTS. SEEKERS WHO ENROLL ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO YOU AND YOUR WBS STUDY HELPERS.

HERE'S WHAT WBS CONNECT GIVES YOU:

Promotional Tools

Use WBS Connect's tools to cost-effectively find Bible students, including online advertising with WBS *Web Ads* and print material customized for you.



Web Address

Promote your custom Connect Web Address. Visitors will land on a WBS enrollment page that gives compelling reasons to study the Bible.

Students

All students who enroll appear on a student list available only to you and your church or group to teach and follow up with.

Support

And you'll always have extensive online help and email access to the WBS support team.

Get started by becoming a WBS study helper at worldbibleschool.net/teach

**LEARN MORE AT WORLDBIBLESCHOOL.NET/CONNECT
OR EMAIL: CONNECT@WORLDBIBLESCHOOL.NET**

WBS offers periodic webinars on how to use Connect to share Jesus. The next Connect webinars will be Tuesday, October 6 at 12:00PM and 8:00PM (CST). To register or learn about future opportunities, email connect@worldbibleschool.net.



WEB ADS

CONNECT PRODUCES FRUIT

(from the New Road church of Christ in Waco, Texas)

Rejoice with us! We recently baptized two WBS students here in our community. Leticia responded to the Web Ads as a part of New Road's ongoing Connect efforts. Darlene was her study helper. Just two weeks later, Karen was also baptized. Her connection to WBS was in another state, but we were contacted to follow up with her and study with her personally.

We're continuing to see fruit from WBS Connect...

Long Island Connects With “Hope For Life”

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas

I was privileged to represent World Bible School at a week-long Gospel meeting and campaign hosted by 12 Long Island New York congregations. Meetings were held at the Suffolk County Community College Van Nostrand Theatre in Brentwood, New York, with all preaching and singing conducted in English and in Spanish. Over 450 people attended the first night.



Prior to the meetings, we set up a Connect web address named *lihopeforlife.worldbibleschool.org*, to match the “Hope for Life” theme of the campaign. In the days leading up to the meetings, Long Island Christians canvassed area neighborhoods sharing invitations and cards offering Bible studies on the *lihopeforlife* webpage. Google web ads were run for eight days before and during the meetings. During evening meetings, a slide was shown inviting attendees to register on the site for Bible study. Twenty-four people registered online to study the Bible and were funneled to Long Island Christians who had registered to be WBS teachers. This gave them the opportunity to study with neighbors in a non-threatening way, and to be there when their students requested some kind of follow up.

This coordinated use of WBS Connect can be duplicated easily in your town or city to expand your local outreach effort. Call us for details: 512-345-8190.



Neighborhood Connection Highland Village church of Christ in Austin, TX, actively seeks ways to connect with neighbors. For example, a 4th of July party on the grounds was pre-advertised through neighborhood distributions. About 20 neighbors joined a high percentage of the membership to enjoy games, foods, activities and spiritual opportunities. Each guest received a WBS Intro.



Swahili Connects With Muslim

Chris Boyce — MANCHESTER, Tennessee

I have always loved World Bible School. When we lived in Mwanza, Tanzania, I knew that Phil Palmer had helped to translate WBS materials into Swahili. He asked me if I wanted some copies. I doubted anyone would be interested.

In the end, we had over 290 people complete the courses. What was cool was in two different church plants, we had two women who were Christians who could not read so they asked their Muslim husbands to read them the first four lessons. One of the husbands was named Musa. I showed up at his door four months after he started reading to his wife.



Musa with his children who benefit from a Christian home.

He answered the door by saying to me, “Christopher, I believe Jesus is the Son of God and I want to be baptized!”

Ha, how’s that for easy evangelism? Musa is still faithful and is a dear friend. Please share that with the leadership of WBS.

Connecting with Uganda



Phil Palmer — ABILENE, Texas

E laine’s and my WBS travels went well overall. We arrived at Entebbe on June 24 and arrived back at DFW July 31st. With local Christians we held eight “WBS Crusades” consisting of public preaching with a loudspeaker and WBS banner, with teams canvassing and enrolling students. These Crusades were held in the towns of Kamuli, Busia, Parombo, Nebbi and Kasese, and in the trading centers of Bata, Abwengi and Etoeni. We connected with schools and technical colleges and met with WBS workers in other cities. About 1,500 new students were enrolled for Bible courses.

from page 2 - **Connecting Schools**

General. We ask you to pray intently that the Education Service continues to open its doors to maximize WBS Bible studies. We look forward to how the Lord will develop more effective models for sharing the Good News. All progress will continue to be *Nyame adom*.

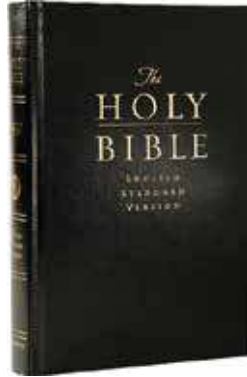
New Bible Needed

Choosing the best translation
for sharing the Good News of Jesus

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Many World Bible School teachers assume that the King James Version (KJV) was the standard for early WBS-branded courses. In fact, Jimmie Lovell as WBS director and Leonard Mullins as editor selected the American Standard Version (ASV).

When new courses began in 1993, Tex Williams as director and John Reese as editor selected the New International Version (NIV). The ASV was accurate but disadvantaged by difficult English. The KJV remained then, as now, by far the best seller worldwide. But its research in 1611 was limited, and its archaic wording made it unsuitable for many Third World students. At that time the NIV, the leading seller after the KJV, was selected. In places its smoothness in English reduced accuracy. Where necessary, such deficiencies were overcome by editorial clarity in the lesson. Where the NIV used advanced English terms, the Easy To Read Version (ERV) was used as a parallel to help the less educated.



The most recent (2011) NIV introduced controversial changes and stopped all publishing of the 1984 edition, precluding its further use by WBS. Like many others, WBS launched into renewed research into which version could best serve courses and Bible printings. (A singular version aids consistent grading since WBS test questions use Scripture's wording.) Three priorities were identified: availability, readability and especially accuracy for in-depth study. Thus weighted, the "essentially literal" English Standard Version (ESV) emerged as a leader—as its market growth also indicates. Its readability (similar to the NKJV) is less suitable for some students, but editorial clarifications in WBS lessons can overcome this disadvantage.

The English Standard Version satisfies our priorities: availability, readability and especially accuracy for in-depth study.

Converting all print and online courses to the ESV involves substantial work and expense, as does publishing WBS' edition of the ESV Bible—running into the hundreds of thousands in up-front costs. This one-time transitional outlay comes on top of current WBS outreaches—Connect America, Ghana PREP, God Bless East Africa, to name a few. Each outreach must move forward in the Gospel's urgency, so where will the extra funding be found? In the Lord's providence, key donors are collaborating in 2015, offering to match "new" and "increased" gifts up to \$360,000. If you gave in 2014, any increase in 2015 counts. If you missed last year, here is your chance to double your gift's value this year. Please share this article with others. A version change is rare, but when it becomes necessary it's a great time to pull together. So far, 30,000,000 have been taught. Let's gear up to teach many more!



You. Sharing Jesus.

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THANKS.

GIVING.

