

# Action!

July 2020

Vol 84:4



# A L L N A T I O N S

There is much we cannot fathom about God's work in devastating crises. Our God chooses to keep some things secret (Deuteronomy 29:29; Matthew 6:6). But He provides sufficient evidence for trust; and He reveals our mission: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). That assignment continues, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether shut in or free to travel, whether in or out of season (2 Timothy 4:2).

Paul worked vigorously at going and preaching, perhaps drawing a logical line between "go and preach" and the *ability* to "go." Then, abruptly, a major shut down wrecked Paul's travel plans. He was stuck in prison for years, not months, isolated from those he longed to see. Did Paul comprehend how the Lord was working in his misfortunes? Whatever the answer, Paul knew what had been revealed, namely, the mission must continue. So, Paul used the available tool—*correspondence*—that provided the Prison Epistles. They have benefited billions ever since, even now forming the basis for WBS' advanced courses.

We ask, "Where is God in this Covid crisis? Why are travels canceled? Why allow postal delivery to halt when millions depend on WBS mail?" Whatever the answers, this we know: God can be trusted to "work all things" for His purposes (Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28). God likely is paving the way for even swifter, more reliable ways to share Jesus. Recent "sheltering in place" has brought new WBS tools forward. Already, **Mathetis** helps us reach Americans. Soon, the **WBS LiteApp** for students will help us reach "all nations" linking to WhatsApp (2 billion active users).

Traditional WBS methods have shared the Good News with well over 40,000,000 souls. What a start! Now God leads us to the next level, to reach even more. Whatever your abilities, do the most powerful things: Pray to the Lord of harvest. Inspire more teachers. Generously support transitions that engage new generations with new tools (see page 6). Why? Because, in season and out of season, in normality and in crisis, the Great Commission continues!



# meeting LOCAL NEEDS...

Richard Patton — LEANDER, Texas



**Leander preacher  
Nathan Keene  
with WBS Bible.**



**Richard Patton  
offers WBS Bibles.**

**T**he Covid crisis and “Stay at Home” orders have dramatically increased unemployment and interrupted supply chains, also increasing the need for food assistance. The Leander church of Christ in Leander, Texas, has operated the **Brighter Days Food Pantry** since 2011 as a community outreach. Leander has gone beyond typical church food pantries, purchasing from the local food bank and receiving food donations from grocery stores.

Executive Director Terri Sue Bettis says, “The pantry’s mission is more than serving food. Its mission is to let those needing help know that we care and to establish friendships and relationships that will ultimately matter.” Community folks in need are invited to the church building each Wednesday night. Typically, an average of 120 families are served each week. However, in the current crisis, the number of families seeking food has surged as high as 154. The Pantry began curbside pickup to maintain social distancing. The parking lot is open for service from 5:30 to 7.00 p.m. Cars pour in, following an organized

path around the parking lot. About 30 church members and others volunteer in this highly efficient operation: gathering and preparing supplies, directing traffic, recording names and loading food into vehicles. Each load offers a week’s worth of food, including meat, fresh vegetables and fruits, bread, canned goods and a dessert. The Pantry also provides diapers, baby formula and hygiene items.

Opportunities abound to share the love of Jesus. Moving from car to car, church members meet people, offer prayers and the **WBS Study Bible**, which itself is designed for further Gospel learning. God continues to provide, even in these times of high demand!



**Leander Food Pantry crew. Left side: LeeAnne and Richard Patton of WBS, with Trisha Magadu, a volunteer from Zimbabwe. Right side in pink: Pantry manager Terri Sue Bettis.**

# meeting INTERNATIONAL NEEDS...

Ron Pottberg — DELTA, Colorado

**I**n this time of world pandemic, the USA is blessed with many advantages. That is not the case in many developing nations. At World Bible School we stay in close contact with our WBS Service Centers that coordinate WBS student recruiting, mail services and follow up. As reports of genuine need come from our Service Centers, WBS sends relief funds through our dependable brethren who can verify accountability. It is a great advantage to have a network already in place in key countries. The mission of WBS is the ministry of the Word, which must remain our top priority (Acts 6:2-4). That Word also teaches us to share and to serve the needy (Galatians 2:10). If you wish to help, please send your funds to World Bible School with a note for “Relief Work.” Our network can help to assure you that your funds will reach those in need at this time.



## Love Notes

Mark Ryals, Taylor Town church of Christ, White Bluff, TN: **I began doing podcasts in late March and had 224 viewers. A month later, I had over 7,300 viewers. I also use WBS information and video.**

Sheryl Williams (WBS): **This sweet lady always puts her money order donation in a large envelope labeled “In God We Trust.” On the money order, she writes “In God we trust. Thank you, Jesus.” She does this every single month. So cute!**

Virginia McPeak: **My new student, age 20, is very grateful for WBS online courses. She marked a “Visitor to my house” as how she learned about the course. She commented, “When I read a passage of the Bible myself, I don’t fully understand the meaning. These lessons are very well written, easy to understand, which helps a lot.”**

Vicki White: **My student works extremely hard on his lessons. He wrote, “I hate not knowing what the answer is! I am wondering what you are going to tell me.” He asks great questions and writes all over his lessons. He writes as he thinks and every single time—when he writes it out as he thinks through it—he gets the correct answer. Just brings me to tears. Bless his heart.**

# Building Bridges to Students



Thank you!" to all who participated in helping us achieve the match for Zimbabwe Bibles. As a result, 20,000 WBS Study Edition Bibles were sent to Zimbabwe for seekers eager to obtain their own copy of God's

Word. Praise the Lord for this wonderful effort to His glory!

Many of us are returning to church services, restaurants and stores. And yes, there is still some hesitation about what is best for our families. We may be wondering if it is safe to cross the bridge to social interaction.

WBS is excited to help you cross the bridge to meet new seekers. If you have not experienced new methods like the WBS social media

disciplining tool, **Mathetis**, it is time. This unique platform has been created to reach the world in a new and relevant manner. Please go online to [Mathetis.org/preview](http://Mathetis.org/preview) to take a test drive. With study manuals that accompany Mathetis, it can be added easily to your adult Bible school curriculum.

New **Bibles** arrived recently. The **WBS LiteApp** for students with WhatsApp will launch soon. It will also offer a download of the entire WBS Study Bible with study notes. How can WBS build such amazing bridges to seekers? The Lord is working powerfully through your partnership!



In today's climate, we can choose to merely "shelter in place" or move forward with the Gospel. God has made His response through His Son. Let's join Him, responding in faith with generous giving. Let's help write new stories in the Book of Life.

*Pat Brown is always available to talk to friends of WBS—individuals and churches. Contact him at [pat@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:pat@worldbibleschool.net).*

## WBS Dinners—Live and Streamed!

Lord willing, World Bible School will host two Benefit Dinners in 2020. **RSVP early since seating may be limited (email [rsvp@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:rsvp@worldbibleschool.net) or call 800-311-2006 or 512-345-8190).** In addition to those coming in person to these exciting events, the **Austin Dinner specifically will be broadcast nationally and internationally. Think of a Jerry Lewis Telethon or a Phonathon enhanced by the latest interactive technology. Then add amazing Gospel progress with news of incredible new tools for outreach. You will want to be a part of these inspiring dinners, reaching goals worthy of the Kingdom of God!**



**NASHVILLE WBS DINNER** Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville TN, October 29. Keynote: **Phil Sanders**

**AUSTIN WBS DINNER** Evangelism and Outreach Center, Westside church of Christ, Round Rock, TX, November 12. Keynote: **Noel Whitlock**

**Join us in person or through the magic of technology. Otherwise, take the initiative now to participate with your generous donation that helps meet the \$500,000 Heroes of Faith Match (page 5).**



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Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts

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# Remembering Wanita White

Bren White — LAUREL, Maryland



**W**anita Irene (Robertson) White grew up in the oil fields of Oklahoma during the Great Depression. As a teen she read Jimmie

Lovell's *Evangelism Newsletter* and later met him at an evangelism retreat. She volunteered to help in any way, becoming a "World Bible School" teacher before Jimmie came up with that name. She helped both Jimmie and J.C. Bailey in Canada.

For many years, she was involved in grading French Bible correspondence through EMB (WBS in French). In over 60 years of correspondence teaching, she kept detailed index cards on over 128,000 students. Many of her students in Africa were baptized and became Gospel preachers, most of whom are still preaching and starting churches of Christ today! She was also the first person to study with French-speaking seekers in Reunion, Madagascar and Mauritius. With the help of Bill Morgan and the Benton, KY church, churches were established in the latter two island-nations.



Joe, Tex, Wanita, and Bren

She and my Dad, Joe White—41 years as a professor at Purdue University—were also very involved with WBS during the times of Reuel Lemmons and Tex Williams, and she had great respect for John Reese. She shared the Good News in many other ways, but she poured much of herself into WBS because she knew well its effectiveness in making disciples of "all nations"!

# HEROES NEEDED

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

**J**ust about the time we thought the news could not worsen, it did. Politics, always contentious, turned savage. The Covid crisis set the nation back with a staggering number of deaths, lost jobs and disrupted lives. On top of that came violent riots. In the words of Ephesians, so many have "no hope" and are "without God"—and it shows. Waves of bad news incite fear. Some despair. Others look for a way forward.

As they seek, will we be there for them? Or are we, too, paralyzed by fear? This is a time for brave heroes who share *the Good News*, the only effective antidote to our world's woes. In this election year, millions will be spent on politics. Yet politics, even at its best, cannot solve the underlying condition of the human heart.

Surrounded by pressing needs, heroes are running forward to meet the challenge. Sacrificial donors are helping to build timely tools—including *Mathetis*, *Connect* and the *WBS Apps*—for sharing Jesus

locally and internationally. They are promoting robust advertising to connect with seekers of all ages. Despite hard times, five donors have come together to establish the **Heroes of Faith Match**. Setting the pace, they have pledged or given a combined total of \$500,000. Meeting this match/challenge will mean at least \$1,000,000 applied to reaching seekers in 2020—a goal worthy of the *Great Commission*!

If we discovered a cure to the Corona virus, wouldn't we do all in our power to deliver it to every reachable person? The global plague of sin is far deadlier. We already have the cure in Christ. If we truly believe that, no sacrifice is too great to deliver this cure to every reachable person. Will you step away from fear and step forward to meet the challenge? **Give securely online at [worldbibleschool.net/](http://worldbibleschool.net/) give or mail you gift to WBS.**



## WHY HEROES OF FAITH?

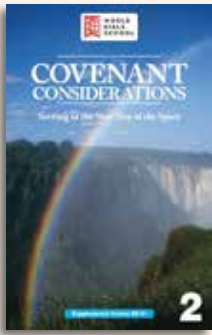
**W**hy is this special initiative called "Heroes of Faith"? Because this is a time to be inspired by the examples of worthy leaders (Hebrews 13:7). Match originators cited heroes they personally knew, including Batsell Barrett Baxter, Ira North and Marshal Keeble (pictured above). We need to imitate their positive outlook, their evangelistic spirit, their courage and their unwavering loyalty to the Word of God. This source of inspiration relates to World Bible School's **Walls of Honor**.

**The Ruth Orr Wall of Honor** highlights WBS teachers and coordinators, past and present. You select the honoree. You assist us with a photo and a description from which we make identical plaques, one for the honoree's family or congregation and one for the Wall of Honor at WBS in Cedar Park. The donation of \$500 or more aims to carry their cause forward by involving more Christians in sharing Jesus with more students.

**The Founders' Wall of Honor** begins with WBS founders like Jimmie Lovell, Reuel Lemmons and Tex Williams, then broadens to highlight heroes of faith and evangelism, whether connected with WBS or not. It too has special plaques. Beginning with a \$1,000 donation, it similarly aims to advance Christ's mission of mercy.

As we all take on the challenge of matching \$500,000, many participants will want to donate far more than the minimum for each hero. Some will band together (as individuals or as a congregation) to honor their chosen heroes. **To learn more, go online to [worldbibleschool.net/wallofhonor](http://worldbibleschool.net/wallofhonor) or call 512-345-8190.**





## New WBS Supplement: **Covenant Considerations** Serving in the New Way of the Spirit

**C**ovenants are a vital key for understanding God's Word. They provide the Bible's own way to interpret the Bible (Hebrews 1:1-2; 8:6-13). The May 2020 issue of *Action!*—viewable at [worldbibleschool.net/news](http://worldbibleschool.net/news)—announced the foundation-laying Supplemental Course **Covenant Promises**. Its sequel is **Covenant Considerations** which explores implications of the change from the Old Covenant to the New. What is the Law's role in the Gospel accounts and Acts? Today, what is our relationship to Old Testament principles? Are grace and commandments compatible? Which is God's covenant nation today? How does the change of covenant affect priesthood and worship? Seeking students will find many puzzling questions addressed by this Supplemental Course. Disciples in your congregation also need the Bible's clarity for today's pressing questions. Thirteen lessons make this 88-page Bible study ideal as a quarterly curriculum. The price is exceptionally reasonable at 60 cents per book. To order, email [orders@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:orders@worldbibleschool.net) or call toll free 877-393-0211.



**Every work morning, our World Bible School team gathers virtually for prayer time. We "Zoom" in from Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ecuador. (The screen capture shows a part of the whole.) Our prayers address troubles and victories. As this is being written, we celebrate new births just reported in Australia, Philippines, Nigeria and Malawi.**

# WBS Reboot 2020

Tim Yaeger — BIRMINGHAM, Alabama

**R**eboot 2020 is our dedicated effort to build digitally for handling unprecedented loads of students and for positioning WBS for future technologies. This project has several strategic objectives.

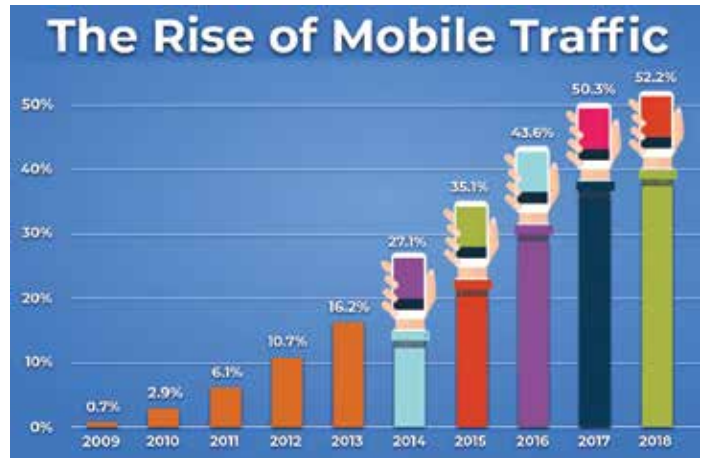
1. Improve the online teaching and learning process for study helpers and students. Secure, rapid communications are key to developing relationships.
2. Overcome postal delays by utilizing phone apps and popular messaging systems increasingly accessible worldwide.
3. Position the Lord's local and global mission as a front-runner with WBS, using emerging technologies that reach to the ends of the earth.
4. Replace old systems, rigid and costly to maintain, with new systems that adapt cost-effectively to evolving mobile technologies.
5. Efficiently add more WBS materials such as Supplemental Courses and lessons previously sent by email.
6. Add new languages and scripts without complicated technical hurdles, while allowing each language to adapt to specific cultural needs.



**WhatsApp, the world's most popular messaging app.**

This strategic initiative will be launched in three separate projects starting this summer and stretching into the fall:

1. Re-engineered website with a world-class learning management system built on best-practice e-learning standards. This is required for the next exciting stages.



2. **WBS LiteApp** for students. This app will be internet sensitive, compatible with low-end devices and integrated with WhatsApp. WBS LiteApp offers a WBS Study Bible download.
3. **WBS FullApp** which makes the entire experience easier on a phone for students, study helpers and follow-up. It downloads the WBS Study Bible automatically.

Imagine the impact for Christ's Kingdom when connecting seekers to New Testament Christians and sending the Bible with WBS Study Notes to countless devices worldwide! Realizing this dream has been a monumental task, beginning conceptually in October 2018. Launching a strategic initiative of this magnitude is possible only as the Lord works powerfully through partners like you who are praying, participating and generously supporting this effort. We praise the Lord and we thank you who open your hearts to His magnificent purposes. Now, get ready to Share Jesus with more seekers than ever before!

To watch orientation videos please visit [worldbibleschool.net/reboot](http://worldbibleschool.net/reboot)



# Estate Planning with Rick and Mary

**F**orty-seven years after receiving its name, World Bible School is pleased to announce for the first time that Estate Planning will receive full time attention. With 40 years in Advancement and 15 years of fruitful WBS experience, Rick and Mary Shur are eminently qualified to represent WBS in serving your planning needs.

Rick and Mary Shur are native to Michigan (Saginaw and Frankenmuth with its Bavarian heritage, respectively). Rick joined the U. S. Navy (1965-1969) with three tours of Vietnam, obtaining the rank of 2nd Class Petty Officer. After a 7-year career with United Parcel Service (UPS), he trained intensively at Pontiac's International School of Preaching (ISP). Mission trips included Ghana and England.

While at ISP, Rick and Mary became house parents at Shults-Lewis Children's Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. They fostered 37 children. After graduation from ISP, Rick became the Development Director for Shults-Lewis. He and Mary created the successful "Change for Children" and "Phone for Children"

campaigns that continue today. From 1984, they similarly served what is now Hope Harbor Children's Home in Oklahoma. In 1989, Potter Children's Home called. Rick and Mary developed an effective team of 13 workers and Potter flourished. During this time Rick and Mary attended Purdue University to refine development skills, which for Rick included certification in estate planning.

Their four daughters are Jody (Resch), Angela (Roy), Tonya (VanBenschoten) and Danielle. Life took a turn when the



daughters went to Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. With some shared classes, Rick majored in geoscience and Mary in advertising with graphic design. Rick also obtained a life insurance license. In 2005, World Bible School learned of Rick's experience and asked him to serve as a gift officer. In 2007, Rick and Mary joined the Reeses for WBS campaigning in Zimbabwe, then continued to do mission work in India.

Rick and Mary have 14 grandchildren. Next January, they will celebrate 50 years of marriage. In so many ways, they deserve congratulations. Their new role in Estate Planning will perpetuate the life-saving mission of WBS for generations to come. You will want to get in touch with them at [rick@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:rick@worldbibleschool.net) and [mary@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:mary@worldbibleschool.net) and 615-916-0420.

## Many Victories

Rex Morgan — MIAMI, Florida

**G**od is giving many victories during these challenging times. People are isolated and separated from family and friends, but they are listening to the radio and receiving the hope found in Christ. **La Voz Alegre** continues to air, reaching through the isolation with our regular radio broadcasts and website outreach.

**The top 10 Latin American countries visiting our web site are:** Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Peru, Panama, Ecuador and Costa Rica. But we continue to be amazed that the USA has the most visitors. Over the past



Rex and Brenda Morgan

12 months our website has received 1.9 million hits. Praise God!

**The top 10 visited pages:** La Voz Alegre radio hour, Free Bible Course (Spanish and English WBS), With the Open Bible, Unforgettable Conversations with Jesus, What is a Home, Making Disciples, The God Who Redeems, Life Is Worth Living, and Biblical Archaeology.

These victories move us to ask, "Can we do more to utilize and maximize technology in sharing the Gospel?" Yes, there is more that we can do! After much prayer and consideration, we are developing a La Voz Alegre App that can be downloaded to people's devices, making all of our programs of hope "fingertip accessible." Please keep this new initiative in your prayers.

**Air Force Thunderbirds fly over our offices in Cedar Park, honoring front-line workers in the Covid crisis. We join them in expressing our appreciation to you who serve so selflessly for our health and wellbeing!**



# New Bibles Arrive!

In three workdays near the end of May, five trucks with 40-foot containers delivered a total of 150,000 Bibles to the WBS facility in Cedar Park, Texas. The main load was 92,000 compact **ESV Study Bibles** and 12,000 of the same suitably bound for prisons. In addition to these, we received the first of three entirely new products:

**10,000 Presentation Bibles** – identical content (English Standard Version with WBS study notes) but with enhanced features: larger format with leather cover, large print, high quality paper, ribbon and more. Price: **\$14.95** (all prices exclude shipping; savings on bulk orders).

**6,000 French Bibles** – Louis Segond Version Revue (2020) with WBS study notes and special helps developed by French World Outreach, overseen by Crieve Hall church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee. The formal title is *La Bible: Edition d'etude Ecole Mondiale de la Bible*. Price: **\$5.00**.

**30,000 NKJV Bibles**  
– compact New King James Version with WBS study notes.  
Price: **\$6.95**.



**WBS NKJVs!—one of five truckloads of Bibles**

This quarter's printing brings the number of new Bibles produced by WBS to well over the half-million mark—573,000. Let's put these Bibles to work for the Lord of Harvest, pressing forward with **Bibles for Millions**. Besides the amount delivered to Cedar Park, 20,000 ESVs are being delivered to South Africa and 20,000 to Zimbabwe—thanks to your marvelous match fulfillment! We earnestly pray for these Bibles to touch many lives with the power that is unique to God's word.

**Y**ou may have seen the headline: "Bible Sales Soar During Outbreak." Lifeway, a commercial bookstore, explains its 60% increase in Bible sales, "We believe this is no accident, as people often go to the Bible as a source of hope in times of crisis and uncertainty. People draw hope from Scripture because in it they see a God who is with us during our suffering." Receptivity is rising. Souls are seeking assurance and purpose.

As a non-profit, WBS already offers quality Bibles at incredibly low prices. We want to do even more for spiritual renewal during the current re-opening.

**From now through September 30**, the compact **WBS Study Edition Bible (ESV)**, normally \$5.00 apiece, is on sale at **\$3.99 apiece** (shipping not included). That applies to any quantity from 1 to 499. Quantities of 500 or more are already \$3.50 apiece (shipping not included). Take advantage of our **first ever sale** to place this attractive, evangelistic Bible into

**\$3.99**

the hands of family, friends, neighbors and more. WBS study notes promote growth for members and outreach to seekers. This Bible is also the



You. Sharing Jesus.

**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to  
*Action!* World Bible School  
P.O. Box 2169  
Cedar Park, Texas 78630

perfect gift for the holiday season, so use this sale to stock up in advance. To you who have blessed WBS through difficult days, this is another way for us to say, "Thanks for caring for the needy through WBS!" Place your order by phoning toll free 877-393-0211 or emailing [orders@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:orders@worldbibleschool.net).

upcoming...

make disciples



who obey **all**.