

If you are familiar with World Bible School's supplemental courses (see page 6), you know how God values covenants. "Covenant" conveys commitment to the relationship, stability and assurance.

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations (Deuteronomy 7:9).

God remained true to His word throughout the Old Covenant. The New Covenant is "better" in every way, guaranteed by divine blood and empowered by the divine Spirit.

Covenant explains why our labors with the Lord continue to be so blessed. Even when we struggle, He is faithful. Our limp is a permanent reminder that the strength is His, not ours. Our victories are really His. He chooses to win through us.

I have contributed articles to *Action!* since 1985 and served as editor since 2006. During those years, the Lord's covenant blessings have overflowed. *Action!* is a paradox: easy to produce because winning stories abound, difficult because they cannot all fit. This is my final editorial as president of WBS. By way of farewell, please permit me to express profound gratitude to you, our WBS partners, and to exercise the New Covenant's privilege of priesthood. The Levitical priests served as dim pictures of Christ, the true High Priest, and, resulting from His sacrificial work, the new priesthood. Now we, as God's children, "are a chosen race, a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). Our priestly prayers and blessings are powerfully effective because they come to the Father through His Son. Though each of us is equally privileged, I get to use this format to thank you and to pray the priestly blessing for your future:



24 "The LORD bless
you and keep you;
25 the LORD make
His face to shine
upon you and
be gracious to you;
26 the Lord lift up
His countenance
upon you and
give you peace."

Numbers 6



WORLD
BIBLE
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ESCAPE FROM AFGHANISTAN

BY AN **ANONYMOUS** CONTRIBUTOR

Many World Bible School and World English Institute teachers are familiar with our dear S.H. (Study Helper). She has taught thousands, including hundreds converted to Christ from Islam. She has long wanted to travel to encourage her many students, to let them know they are not alone in their dangers and struggles. S.H. arrived in Afghanistan just in time for the crisis that has dominated the news ever since. She was staying with a family of her converts. As the Taliban took over, the Muslim neighbors began to ask, "Who is the American you are keeping? Why is she here?"

S.H. was prepared to die for Christ, but she realized that her presence inadvertently could get others killed. Her presence

was attracting attention to her converts, making them targets and placing them in unnecessary danger. In late August, she was at breakfast with her Afghan family, and later described the scene.

As we ate breakfast together and I thought about my presence among them, tears began to flow. Finally, I could not contain it. [I]

broke down and cried openly. [They] told me I was not putting them in danger and they wanted me to stay; they would protect me. I blubbered that I wanted to protect them by leaving. So we

"argued" over who got to protect whom, as I boo-hooed.

[Her message from inside Afghanistan continued:] Now, they are targeting Americans and Christians. So, included in our family discussion, I told them



"A BULLET WILL JUST OPEN UP THE DOOR TO HEAVEN FOR CHRISTIANS WHERE THEY WILL LIVE LIFE MORE FULLY AND ETERNALLY."

that one of them may be killed. I reminded them of the ones arrested, tortured, and killed by terrorist Saul and the Christians that fled Jerusalem when Stephen was killed, etc. But I kept hammering home, "You cannot kill a Christian. It is impossible to kill a Christian." A bullet will just open up the door to heaven for Christians where they will live life more fully and eternally. I urged them that, if their home is attacked, they are to run when their enemies corner someone who they will shoot in the next moments. At least the Taliban do not torture, and I told them about Foxe's Book of Martyrs. It is no

shame to run. They must run to keep the church alive. Yes, they will mourn for the one of them that was killed, and they will be hugely missed, but they must be happy for them also and be prepared to carry on.

Editor's Note: By God's grace and through many prayers, S.H. escaped Afghanistan. That escape involved many harrowing, exhausting experiences, especially for a woman of advanced age. For now, too many lives are at stake, but someday that saga will be told.

DISCIPLESHIP CAMPAIGN REPORTS

Doc Turk: This trip into Togo and Ghana has been something I never dreamed of. Upon returning [to Longview, Texas] there is something different in my spirit after participating in so much work with other disciples that expanded the Kingdom by over 3,000 lives. Spending three weeks with disciples that fully devoted themselves to Kingdom work brought the Kingdom so near that you could not deny the power of the King in all that was done.

Johnny Coleman: At a small village we only had about 30 people. After the study, around 25 wished to obey the Gospel. The chief said he would not go, but that he would help the church as it developed. Upon our return, we noticed another man. After studying with him, he also wanted to be baptized. This

continued on p7

Texas campaigners to Ghana and Togo



ANSWERS FOR WANDA

BY **RICHARD PATTON** CEDAR PARK, TEXAS

World Bible School and Marilee Martinson, from Istachatt, FL, visited the WBS booth at this year's Equip Conference in Orlando. She was thrilled to find WBS, and to realize its connection to churches of Christ. Just two weeks prior, her best friend, Wanda, had registered with WBS after she had left her traditional denomination where she had never read the Bible and had never been expected to. Marilee suggested they look together for Bible answers. Wanda's online search for a Bible study produced several options, but she chose WBS. She said, "This looks great!" It was exactly what she was looking for. Wanda was adopted by a study helper from the Northwest Tampa

church of Christ as part that congregation's Connect Web Target. Wanda has begun her study and feels as though God is watching out for her and is directing her path by helping her connect with WBS.

Richard Patton, based in Cedar Park, Texas, has represented WBS at many churches, presentations and workshops nationwide. He and LeeAnne have returned to their roots in Wyoming. We deeply appreciate their years of service and partnership in the Gospel!



Last Letter as President

Dear Friends,

As 2021 closes, so does my role as president of World Bible School. Beth and I share with you many dear memories. As students at Harding College (1970-1975), Jimmie Lovell's *Action* paper intrigued us and inspired great visions for world evangelism. Our work in Southern Africa spanned 1976-1991, with full focus on WBS students from 1985. Tex Williams, then President of WBS, invited us to join him in Austin after our African work concluded.

From 1991 until 2006, based at WBS in Austin and Cedar Park, we worked in course development, church relations and fund raising, along with fruitful field work. From 2006, I have served as WBS President. One major goal has been to leave WBS in the best position for future leaderships to succeed. Working with the Board, we have prepared Brian Davis as the next WBS President. My aim in retirement, as President Emeritus, is to assist in Brian's success.

The Lord's face has shone on WBS, giving great progress. In 1991, Tex and I, with two part-time ladies were the (minimally) paid WBS staff. Today, our U.S. staff numbers 34, and we have staffed Service Centers in 17 key nations. The Lord uses this dedicated



team to develop cutting-edge evangelistic tools and to service teachers and students.

Steady progress carries with it increasing financial responsibility. In view of the goal to position WBS for future success, may I enlist your help? This is not for me, or for Brian, but for advancing the Lord's cause. WBS is directly aligned with the Great Commission as thousands of teachers and follow up workers share Jesus with some 1.5 million active students in "all the nations."

You have been such a blessing! In 2021, please do more than ever to complete the "best position" goal with resounding generosity. Consider an especially significant gift, which may well include estate planning and endowment

building, to strengthen WBS through this once-in-fifteen-years transition. You may wish to use the gift form (pages 3 and 4). Let's pull together to strengthen Brian and Sondra and the team for a powerful launch from this new starting block.

Your partner in the greatest mission on earth,

John D. Reese

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Thank You, Don and Rita!

This year, Don Boyd (81) is "retiring" from his current role in Church Relations and International Relations with WBS. Like John and Beth Reese, that just means more flexibility in his and Rita's ongoing service. After 20 years in the Air Force, Don earned degrees at Oklahoma Christian and Harding. Their

preparation helped the Boyds benefit Christian education in Namwianga, Zambia and in California. In 1995, the church in Harpeth Hills, TN, sent the Boyds to Cape Town, South Africa, using WBS as their main evangelistic tool. In 2005, the church in Cedar Hill, TX, sent them to Mumenia in Zambia as part of the team led by Brian and Sondra Davis (their daughter). They returned to Abilene in 2011, then joined WBS in Cedar Park in 2014. Don and Rita, "Thank You!" for sharing the WBS blessing with so many U.S. congregations and for your regular trips to Africa on behalf of Cedar Hill and WBS. May the Lord's face shine on your continued service!



BIBLES at the Beach

BY JEFF SMITH LUBBOCK, TEXAS

DiscipleTrips loves WBS! For years we've used the CONNECT portal to train new teammates in preparation for a mission trip. Another valuable resource is the affordable WBS Study Bible. Its handy size, study notes and beautiful cover make it useful and something we're proud to give to seekers.



This summer, DiscipleTrips took WBS Study Bibles to Alki Beach in Seattle. We set up a table with a banner offering "Prayers for Anything." Other team members roamed the beach prayer walking and inviting people to a cookout. We gave Bibles, held Bible studies and prayed with many, inviting those we met to connect with the local missionaries hosting our week-long mission.



We scattered the seed all week, believing that God's word never returns void. A week later, **we received news of Zayne's baptism into Christ!** He was one we met that day on Alki Beach. Thanks, WBS, for all you do to make sharing the Good News of Jesus easy so that everyone can be a part of world evangelism. DiscipleTrips values our partnership and invites all to join us. Visit discipletrips.com today to find your DiscipleTrip!

COMPOUND Interest

BY JIM CORNER GARLAND, TEXAS

WBS has taught over 35 million people since its inception in 1973. The reason for the high number is based on the concept of *compound interest*. To illustrate: One Christian teaches and disciples one person a year. Each of them then teaches and disciples one per year and this is replicated for 30 years. By then, over 536 million will have received the saving message of Jesus! On the other hand, if a crack team of 10,000 evangelists teaches one every day, at the end of 30 years they will have taught almost 110 million, not even a quarter that the disciplers taught.

The exorbitant growth of the first century church was not based on preachers. In Acts 8, when a great persecution broke out against the church, did the disciples go into hiding? Just the opposite. Those who were scattered went everywhere declaring the Word (Acts 8:4). WBS is a microcosm of that model. My part of this mission is

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to introduce congregations to this great ministry. One of the positives of WBS is that virtually anyone can teach using one of WBS' tools.

It's so good to be back together!

We hear that often as more public events are resuming. These images convey the excitement expressed at World Bible School's various roles at the recent Harding Lectureship, plus a snapshot of our WBS benefit dinners.

1. WBS-WEI lunch attracted 175.
2. Many visited WBS and Mathetis booths, including...
3. ...brother Augustine Tawiah, member of parliament in Ghana.
4. Derek Drake joined Tim Yaeger in presenting Mathetis, our social network for spiritual growth.
5. John and others spoke at benefit dinners in Austin and Nashville.



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INTRODUCING A NEW SUPPLEMENT: *The Mystery of Music*

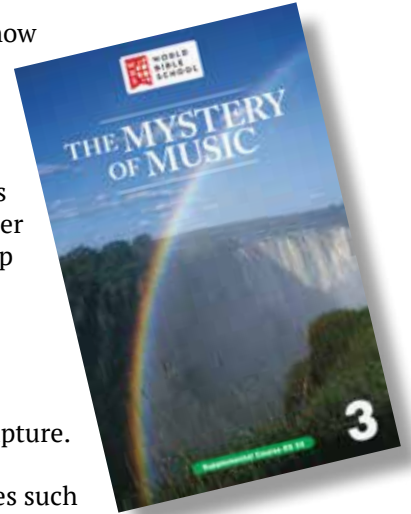
Nothing is more basic to Christian living than worship. That is why we exist—for the praise of His glory.” That is why we continually offer priestly sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15). That is why we assemble and encourage one another (1 Corinthians 14; Hebrews 10:25).

Nothing is more basic to how we serve than the New Covenant. “We serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code” (Romans 7:6). Worship used to center on Jerusalem. Now worship takes place in “spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

Much is said about hermeneutics, how to understand and apply Scripture. The Bible itself is the key, revealing its own principles such as Hebrews 1:1-2 and Hebrews 8:6-13. Covenants are so vital to basic understandings that World Bible School offers focused Supplemental Courses: *Covenant Promises* asks, “To which covenant do we belong?” *Covenant Considerations* asks, “What do covenant changes mean for us?” Now, building on these, WBS introduces the third in the Covenant Series, *The Mystery of Music*.

Music is integral to human cultures. What is its role in God’s culture? Worship is offered to God. It aims to honor and please Him. Humans have their preferences, but what does God want? In the case of music, a fair approach traces all that God reveals, from music’s invention (Genesis) to its final glory (Revelation). Such a survey is full of surprises, deepening the mystery well into New Testament times. Jesus Himself holds the answer (Ephesians 3:4; Colossians 2:2). His “Revelation” is especially insightful, as the name implies. Written in a lively and winsome style, this thirteen-lesson study (one quarter) will bless Bible classes and small groups, along with WBS students and other individuals. The price is ultra-affordable at 80 cents per booklet (76 pages).

The Mystery of Music and *Roles in the Family of God* have been delayed due to now-familiar “supply chain” issues with paper and the printer. Please expect them for purchase in mid-December. When you order these or other WBS materials, go to worldbibleschool.net/shop or email orders@worldbibleschool.net or call 877-393-0211.



Nigerian Prison Report

BY **FRIDAY ADIMA** ABA, NIGERIA

Nidubuisi awaited trial for 4 years then was sentenced to 25 years. All these years [since his conversion] I have been following him up, because I baptized him in Aba prison, so I did not want to lose him. He maintained his Christian life in all these prisons. In 2021 March he was favored and given amnesty by the governor of Abia State. I never knew until he phoned me that he is out from prison. Here is the photo of us together at church.

The baptistery we built at Umuahia Prison was officially commissioned on August 11th 2021. The Controller cut the ribbon after a short preaching of 25 minutes. The topic was "YOU are Important." Thirty-three people surrendered to Christ and were baptized. Five more were baptized on a later visit.



Prison baptistery officially commissioned



Nidubuisi and Friday

In India, great excitement as Amil Kumar helps others download the WBS Lite App.



Love Notes

Wayne and Gloriann Duncan: **[We appreciate] your excellent and valuable work to send God's Word all over the USA and the whole world. Your newsletters are interesting and informative. It is amazing to see how your worthy work has**

grown in volume, commitment and positive results. May the Lord bless each of you as you serve Him and His church.

Gail Prater: **Thank you so very much for the book *Dreams Come True!* It is a beautiful book filled with so many inspiring stories about people bringing people to Christ. WBS does a great job of sharing Jesus with the world!**

Connie Coalson: **It is so good to know that Christianity is doing so well in some parts of the world. Perhaps somebody could send some missionaries to America. My wife and I started with WBS in 2011 and have written to 850 students. We believe WBS is a very effective tool to tell the world about Jesus.**

from p3 Campaign Reports

time, the chief consented to go, saying he would just watch. As we were baptizing the man, we looked up to see the chief removing his upper garments. He had decided he wanted to be baptized. Praise God for His providential care of us all.

Charles Nii Odoi: **I am assisting George Akpabli, well-known leadership trainer in Benin, to multiply disciples in West Africa with Gospel Chariot Missions and others, using "4 Fields Discipleship". Willie Gley invited us to Bear Valley's school in Kpalime, Togo. Brothers from Texas were involved in the two months of campaigning in Guerin Kouka, northern Togo, which resulted in over 3,000 people baptized. Many more were converted in several other places, including Liberia, after training brethren with this discipleship model.**



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Mathetis Announces Upgrades to Study Platform

BY **WILLIAM BUSH** SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE

We have now deployed highly anticipated updates to Mathetis—a social network for studying interactive Bible courses together online. You can use Mathetis to study God's Word with family, friends and those who need to hear the Gospel. Our latest updates improve the shared experience of study God's Word together. The updates include:

- 5 brand new courses, including the newest Mathetis Original course, *Seeking the Family of God*
- An improved study experience on our app and website
- New notifications to alert users of group participation within course study
- Added security features

We invite you to start a study on Mathetis by registering online at mathetis.org or downloading the app on the App Store or Google Play. After creating an account, **1)** select a course you'd like to study, **2)** create a group, **3)** invite your friends to join the group and start your study together.

Mathetis is a great addition to any Bible class or small group study. Several courses include additional Bible class curriculum which goes along with the online study. Check out "The Reaching Series" curriculum which aligns with the Mathetis Original courses. Visit mathetis.org/reaching-series today!

Visit mathetis.org/reaching-series
and download the app today!



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