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Jesus.

WBS

MAR 22 vol

ACTION!

MAGAZINE

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growing in INNOVATION!

BY **BRIAN REX DAVIS** CEDAR PARK, TEXAS
WBS *ACTION!* EDITOR AND PRESIDENT

I believe that Jesus knew we would have to INNOVATE to accomplish His Great Commission. We never "innovate" with the inspired Word of God in which we are GROUNDED. Rather, we innovate to GROW in our ability to reach the whole world with the Good News of Jesus! The Great Commission inspires us to take on big goals. World Bible School is innovating to take on big goals, and we need your help.

10,000,000 for Christ! Over the next two years, we want to sow the seed of the Gospel into the hearts of 10,000,000 people. Is this possible? Think about it... over the past few years, WBS has been receiving over a million requests for Bible studies per year. Over the past five years, John Reese has led WBS in the development of cutting-edge tools that will expand our reach to cover every nation on earth. These tools are designed to reach every generation, in every culture, using every means of communication to share the timeless message of the Bible. **It is possible!**

WE ***NEED YOUR HELP!*** *TO GET* ***INVOLVED WITH WBS,*** *CALL US: 512-345-8190.*

Is this responsible evangelism and mission work? **YES.** We are blessed to work in partnership with great sister ministries such as **Sunset International Bible Institute** who is innovating with preacher training and leadership development. In fact, WBS is working on a joint project to add advanced Bible training with SIBI on the WBS Online Lessons Tool. We want every new Christian to find their place in the Body of Christ. We are working with **Healing Hands International** to offer Bible study opportunities in conjunction with their incredible ministry of compassion. We are partnering with many others that you will see highlighted in **ACTION!** this year. By working together, we can sow the seed of the Gospel into 10 million hearts and more!

How do we get started? Not by ourselves! We seek the help of God. Let's go to God in prayer and ask for him to do more than we can think or imagine. **If we sow the Gospel and water the soil in 10 million hearts, God will bring forth a great harvest.** Will you help us be ready to teach by starting a teaching program in your congregation, or by becoming a study helper yourself?

www.worldbibleschool.net/10M4C

10,000,000

FOR WBS CHRIST

CALL TO
ACTION!

TEN MINUTES AT 10AM

Would you begin praying with us for God to empower us to reach 10 million with the Gospel? Let's take 10 minutes each day to pray for God's help.

INNOVATING WITH PAPER BY PRE-POSITIONING IN ZIMBABWE

BY **JOHN REESE** SEARCY, ARKANSAS
WBS PRESIDENT EMERITUS

As I write this report, Phil Palmer and I are in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Phil is now the WBS Envoy to East Africa and Southern Africa. I retired from the role of WBS President at the end of 2021 and now serve as President Emeritus assisting with World Bible School's dynamic growth. My role on this trip is to orient Phil to his new tasks in Southern Africa. Phil was born and raised in Zimbabwe. This was his first time back in 30 years, but the legacy left by his missionary parents, Roy and Jaxie Palmer, is alive and well. His earlier familiarity with this region, as well as his years of mission work in East Africa (going back to 1979) are God-given gifts for our growth.

OUR AIM IS TO SET UP ***NEW DELIVERY SYSTEMS*** *DESIGNED FOR MORE* ***RAPID AND RELIABLE TEACHING.***

As WBS Study Helpers and students know, Covid has reduced postal efficiency worldwide. Although about 100,000 Zimbabweans enrolled in 2021, postal problems have interfered with proper delivery of their courses. Phil and I are here working with WBS Board member Washington Mhlanga and his wife Alice, coordinator for the WBS Service Center in Avondale.

Our aim is to set up new delivery systems designed for more rapid and reliable teaching. Existing systems that use mail will continue, but as new models prove dependable, they will be introduced to improve the evangelism experience, both for our Study Helpers and our students. The WBS Lite app is another of several solutions for developing nations.

Zimbabwe has enormous receptivity to WBS' Bible study tools. Many Christians join in the effective teamwork. During the decade before Covid, some 2,000,000 students enrolled with WBS, resulting in many conversions and new congregations. That is a fine beginning, but the best is ahead. Improved lesson delivery will increase retention and will link with our follow-up network as part of the delivery process. Through your fervent prayers and generous support, the Lord of harvest will bless many more lives for the glory of His name!

CALL TO **ACTION!** **Can your congregation be ready to help teach those seeking to know God? Start a teaching program! Call 512-345-8190 for help.**

Innovation through collaboration

We are so blessed to have great partnerships! Gospel Chariot Missions, as they share the Gospel and plant and disciple new churches, use WBS materials to connect seekers to study helpers.

10,000,000 for Christ!

Lord, give us a heart for the lost of our world!

psalm 127.4
RAISING ARROWS
in a digital world

Bridging the ***Social Media*** Divide

BY **DEREK DRAKE** LOVELAND, OHIO
WBS SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

As with most innovations, social media is not inherently bad. Jesus and His church came around at the right time. Because of the innovation of the Roman road system, the church had the ability to travel and spread the Gospel at a rapid pace. One could say that was some divine innovation!

The concept of "roads" has manifested itself in a new way with the internet, an innovation to spread information—the "information highway." That highway further developed additional "fast lanes" that cater to your interests and friend circles, called "social media".

For more than a decade I've been studying and utilizing social media for content distribution and marketing. During the same time, "Big Tech" has researched addictive behaviors of humans. Using this knowledge, they've developed platforms that feed into addictive qualities to create a chemical reaction in the brain. Details large and small encourage users to keep coming back for more—all the way down to the color of the alert badge telling you of a new notification.

Children crave attention. My three boys prove it to me daily, especially now that they're competing with their baby sister! Social media gives our young people an outlet of perceived attention, but at what cost?

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1Peter 5:8)

Are we aware of potential addictions to social media? Are we teaching and exemplifying sober-mindedness, and thus teaching our children to also be on the lookout for behaviors and choices that take our focus from godly living? We must guide our children to glorify God in all things, rather than seek to be glorified by the world.

This is one reason WBS created Mathetis: to encourage meaningful, faith-based conversations around God's Word and not the things of this world. WBS is equipping multiple generations to share their faith using online tools!

*WE MUST **GUIDE** OUR CHILDREN TO **GLORIFY GOD** IN ALL THINGS RATHER THAN SEEK **TO BE GLORIFIED** BY THE WORLD.*

CALL TO
ACTION!

IDENTIFY ADDICTIVE HABITS VS. HEALTHY HABITS

BAD: Choosing a mobile device over family engagement and communication

GOOD: Encouraging regular, digital-free family time that engages everyone

BAD: Spending too much time viewing or attempting to recreate social trends

GOOD: Engaging with your child over what's trending. Use it as a time to bond and teach.

INVESTING IN OUR NEXT GENERATION

BY **MARCUS McKEE** LEWISVILLE, TEXAS
WBS CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER

The Apostle Paul's admonition to fathers in Ephesians 6:4 to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord can be an intimidating task. I would venture to guess that most parents and grandparents have been concerned with how best to pass their faith on to their children and grandchildren so they develop their own faith. I would also venture to say that at times this concern has turned into worry.

How do we reach a generation that doesn't communicate the way we do? I submit to you that while times may have changed, the core of what inspires us has not. God has always known that when He has our hearts, He has us! So, we parents, grandparents and leaders in the church, must get the next generation to engage their minds and hearts to love God and search for His will. We can do this by involving them with sharing the Good News with others.

WBS is about sharing the Good News and helping others share it so that a lost and dying world can be saved. One of the tools we provide is our social media app—**Mathetis**. This Christian discipling app was designed specifically with the younger generations in mind! Mathetis has a variety of courses which can help train and teach individuals to share the Gospel with others. It also contains courses that tackle the issues young people are wrestling with today. One of the things I noticed while working in youth ministry is that when a young person is teaching another about the Gospel, the young sharer's faith begins to grow and develop into their own. And I think this can be said for most of us.

These tools require funds to create and maintain, but your investment in WBS makes it possible. Can you or your congregation help fund effective tools and content for our young people? Help us help you to pass on your faith to the younger generation!

CALL TO **ACTION!** **Join us in helping to pass the Good News to the younger generation and help them make disciples as well! For help getting started, call 512-345-8190.**

Young people registering for the Mathetis app at Exposure Youth Camp in Alabama

ACTION!

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INNOVATION IN **2022**

BY **TIM YAEGER** BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
WBS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Are you innovating for Jesus Christ? WBS has deep roots in innovations going back more than 50 years. WBS began with postal teaching, exchanging Bible lessons by mail. At the time, from the 1950's through the 1980's, postal teaching was an innovative way to share the Gospel around the world and equip Christians in the U.S. with a method to teach.

During the 1990s the internet was born and WBS innovated to use websites and email to share the Gospel. In the early 2000s scanning technology advanced along with online storage. WBS innovated returning lessons to the U.S. with scanning. Millions of students have been enrolled over the years. Each advance in technology is a blessing from God paving the way for His Word to accelerate around the world.

We have now entered the 2020s. WBS has again innovated to use social media and phone apps. Mathetis is a social network for spiritual growth. The online lessons tool has been crafted into a dynamic online library. Students can now enter this online library through a website, WBS Lite and the WBS App. WBS is reaching out to students searching for very specific topics on the internet, then offering them the chance to study and connect with a Christian.

All methods and all technologies are relevant to reach the one who is seeking. The seeker is a lost soul searching for meaning, searching for life and searching for hope. In every way possible, WBS is striving to improve the evangelism experience. If the seeker can only access or prefers a printed Bible lesson, WBS will find ways to correspond as effectively as possible. If a seeker learns on a phone, WBS will provide an app and advertise to introduce them to a Christian Study Helper.

I want to come back to the original question, because WBS is about YOU. Sharing Jesus! Innovation isn't just a technology concept. It's about finding new ways of thinking and doing. If you are not using the tools of WBS, how are you sharing the Gospel? Are you working on refining your methods? Are you conducting Bible studies with your friends or colleagues? How are you innovating to find ways to sharing the Gospel—perhaps outside your comfort zone?

Join me and thousands of other Christian Study Helpers to innovate for the Gospel. Gather others in your congregation to team up to teach as many lost souls as possible. I invite you to learn more and apply to become a Study Helper at **www.worldbibleschool.net** or check out **www.mathetis.org**

CALL TO **ACTION!** Join me in sharing Jesus. Apply to be a Study Helper at **www.worldbibleschool.net**. For other ways to participate, call 512-345-8190.

Reaction to ACTION!

BY **FERMAN CARPENTER** ROUND ROCK, TEXAS
PREACHING EVANGELIST
WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The churches of Christ around the world seek to follow the New Testament as our only guide in matters of faith and practice. The principal of restoration is "If anyone speak, let him speak as the oracles of God…" (1 Peter 4:11).

The churches of Christ are growing in amazing ways on every inhabited continent. This growth is fueled when members of the Lord's church become involved in evangelism and when they invite their friends to worship. Their friends enjoy the sermons and Bible classes, and after a few visits they begin to ask questions. They discover something so simple… all the answers to life's questions are found in one book, the Bible!

LET US ALL ***GET INVOLVED*** *IN THE* ***GREATEST WORK*** *IN THE WORLD—* ***SAVING SOULS***—*AND HELP THE LORD'S CHURCH STAY* ***GROUNDED AND GROWING!***

Over the last 2,000 years since our Lord walked this earth, mankind has often tried to improve on God's Word. The Lord's church is constantly tempted to depart from the Truth. And when we do, we find ourselves losing ground rather than gaining ground.

While there are many important scriptures, there is nothing more vital for the life and growth of the church than Christ's command in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to **GO** and teach all nations.

When the Lord's church focuses on evangelism, error—whether adding to or taking away from the Word—becomes a thing of the past. As Christians become involved in inviting, teaching and encouraging, there is no room for unscriptural distractions. New Christians remember what they came out of—and they don't want to go back! Evangelism helps the Lord's church stay faithful and joyful.

Evangelism is God's work. It has been committed into our hands. And it is possible for each Christian to carry out. Let us all get involved in the greatest work in the world, saving souls, and help the Lord's church stay grounded and growing!

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