

You.
Sharing
Jesus.



SEP 22 vol 86:5

ACTION!

MAGAZINE



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BREAKING BARRIERS!

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



Would you like to see the world move past strife and division, and discover unity and harmony?

This world, ruled by Satan, is not likely to make much progress. But in the Kingdom of Christ, progress can and is being made! This is because Jesus makes all things new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Satan's barriers are broken when we bow our knees to the rule of Jesus!

In July, I was privileged to lead a group of senior high graduates from the U.S. to teach a WBS Youth Gospel Meeting in Zambia using WBS Bible study materials. Of the 300 youth and young adults in attendance, 41 decided to put their Lord on in baptism for the remission of their sins!

- Where there was separation between mankind and God, there is now peace and reconciliation!
- Where there was racial enmity, there is now harmony and unity!
- Where there was division, there is now fellowship and love!

Sharing Jesus breaks down the barriers that plague our world with disfunction. Not only in those who hear the



Gospel, but also in those who share the Gospel. As we divest ourselves of selfish ambition, we begin to focus on goals that help others. No longer do we live solely for ourselves, but we live to serve the church and the lost. We discover that sharing the love of Jesus fills us with purpose and meaning for our lives.

Sharing Jesus builds our own faith as we come to understand what we believe and why. A shared faith is an owned faith! Our Zambia campaign theme and study was "This is Good News" based on one of our Master Series courses with that title (see page 9 for more). In a world full of violence and evil, aren't you glad that we have Good News to share?

As is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew and quoted from the prophet Isaiah:

*...the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light, and for those
dwelling in the region and the shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned. (Matthew 4:16)*



**BARRIERS ARE
BROKEN
WHEN WE
BOW OUR KNEES
TO THE RULE
OF JESUS!**



CALL TO ACTION! Your congregation can use WBS courses to train your youth and young adults to share Jesus. No task is more exciting than inspiring our youth to own and share their faith! Call us today at 512-345-8190 or go to worldbibleschool.net to get started.

Senior high graduates from the Hillcrest (Abilene, TX) and Westside (Round Rock, TX) congregations learn to share Jesus in Zambia. (on the cover) Hailey James (above) Bryson Davis and Andy Vaughan.

10,000,000

F O R  C H R I S T

MATCH & CHALLENGE

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



This is a difficult year for our economy. But God is so good and faithful! When one WBS teaching couple saw the goal of offering **10,000,000** people the opportunity to study the Bible and come to know Jesus, they sent a check for \$200,000. They said they wanted to challenge many more with getting the message of Jesus out to our world. Why?

Because Jesus is the answer *for* our world!

GENEROUS CHRISTIAN MEN AND WOMEN **VALUE THE** SCOPE OF **WBS' MISSION.**

Shortly after, another brother sent a message that if others would give \$100,000 to this great cause, he would send a check for \$100,000 to match. When one sister heard this, she wrote a check for \$50,000 to begin meeting that match!

Another long-time teaching couple just recently sent \$100,000 to encourage brothers and sisters to keep the momentum going until we reach **10,000,000**



Will you join these incredible givers by contributing to our goal to reach **10,000,000** for Christ? They are truly considering “how to stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24). Because of this Match and Challenge, any gift whether large or small is not only deeply appreciated, it will be multiplied. Will you be a part of this Match and Challenge?

An ad in Kenya offers free WBS Bible courses.

CALL TO **ACTION!** Our goal over the next 2 years is to raise **\$10,000,000** In order to reach **10,000,000** for Christ! Will you help us reach that goal? What do we need?

1. Pray

2. Teach

3. Give

Match and Challenge to date:

February \$200,000

March \$100,000

August \$100,000 + \$100,000

GRAND TOTAL: \$550,000

(Make your gift to “Match & Challenge”.)

for Christ. In the same month, a completely anonymous donor gave \$150,000. God is so good!

The point? Generous Christian men and women value the scope of WBS' mission. Their trust in our tools to make an eternal difference in the lives of so many is truly humbling. Their sacrificial giving is an inspiration that challenges all of us to participate.

SUMMARY

10,000,000

F O R  C H R I S T

To reach 10,000,000 for Christ, we're raising \$10,000,000 over two years. We're seeking funding for:

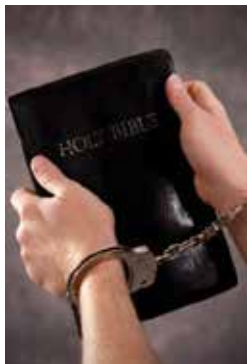
Student recruiting
digital solutions and apps
Follow-up networks

involving churches
equipping Christians
Study Bibles

postal solutions with pre-positioning
Biblical teaching solutions
ministry partnerships

and, of course, the **ministry team** needed to make it all happen.

10,000,000 FOR CHRIST? ARE YOU NUTS?



In the U.S., Jack Smith, an elder at the Oldham Lane church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, reports that since the start of the year, their prison and jail ministry has baptized 94

souls using mostly WBS materials.

WBS has always measured our primary statistics as registrations—new WBS students. While that is a very important measurement, our 10,000,000 for Christ campaign is measuring something new, something greater: **global reach**. Our goal is to sow the seeds of the Gospel into the hearts of 10 million people by the end

of 2023 and see our number of new student registrations grow.

Is it possible? YES! The tools God has empowered us to build over the past five years have given us incredible global reach. Innovations with pre-positioning with Printed Lessons; the expansion of our Online Lessons' capacity to handle large numbers; the creation of our social media network called Mathetis; the deployment of our phone apps that extend our digital Bible Study tools to the most remote areas of the world; and more—are incredible evangelism tools that God has placed within our hands! Why not set bigger goals? Why not go into ALL of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Ultimately, our goals are simply a measurement of our willingness to

follow Jesus in His mission. What matters to God is each of these precious souls who obey the Gospel and are baptized for the remission of their sins. Why? To be added to God's eternal Kingdom.

As we set our modest goals and work hard to achieve them, we want to share with you how God is accomplishing His will through you sharing Jesus. That is one of the key objectives of ACTION! Magazine. We hope that you are greatly encouraged!

CALL TO ACTION!

If you have a story or stat that would encourage your fellow Study Helpers, send it to Brian Rex Davis at brian@worldbibleschool.net. Let's encourage the saints together!



Our Stories are Your Stories!

Machona Monyamane of South Africa came to Christ through WBS. His Study Helper was Dr. John Morgan in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Machona went on to be an evangelist for Gospel Chariot Missions, and earn a Bible degree from Harding University and a Masters from Nations University. Machona serves on the board of African Christian College (and also has served on the WBS Board). But now he has joined our International Relations team as WBS Coordinator of South Africa as our global reach is expanding to reach millions with the Gospel. At left, Machona (gesturing) shares Jesus in the recent Zambia WBS Campaign.



Phil Palmer (with hat) is WBS Envoy to Eastern and Southern Africa. He reports a great harvest in **Zimbabwe**:

- Mutare WBS with Campion Mugweni – 15 baptized in April
- Igava School WBS Follow-up meeting with Washington & Alice Mhlanga – 65 baptized in April
- Chikomba District WBS Seminar – 74 baptized on June 18
- Murewa District WBS Follow-up Meeting – 48 baptized on July 9
- Prince Edward High School – 46 baptized on July 23 with John & Beth Reese teaching
- Herentals High School – 85 baptized on July 23 with Phil & Elaine Palmer teaching

And in **Malawi**:

- 69 baptized in July on a WBS Campaign in which our Advancement Representative, Steve Gober, preached

And in **Kenya**:

- 39 prisoners baptized in May by Eric Chepkwony
- 13 congregations planted using WBS materials - reported by Moses Simiyu



Ron Pottberg, WBS Envoy to West Africa and Asia with a WBS student and Godwin Isaac (right), WBS Nigeria Coordinator

Ron Pottberg coordinates with a wide segment of our Student recruiters as we pair seekers with Study Helpers. Recently from **Nigeria**, Monday Akpakpan (1) reports on his WBS Follow-up:

- 34 baptisms in March
- 24 baptisms in May
- 38 baptisms in June
- 40 baptism in July

And from the **Philippines**: Ruel Ramos Malubay (2) reports eight baptisms in April.

And from **India**: While editing this edition, we received news of a 23-year-old young woman who had just put on her Lord in baptism! (3) *The more we sow, the more fruit is harvested.*



1



2



3



4



5



Tim Brumfield is WBS Portuguese Coordinator. He reports that four new Portuguese-speaking congregations have signed up for teaching with WBS tools. Most of these Study Helpers are from **Brazil** which has a population of 212 million people. Lord of Harvest, lift up our eyes to the opportunities before us!

- New sister, Eliene, of Salvador, Brazil, is baptized by Daniel Silva. (4)
- Daniel's *Let the Bible Speak* group, which feeds into Portuguese-language Bible studies with WBS. (5)

YOUR GIFT WILL CREATE MORE STORIES!

☐ I want to give **this amount now:**
\$ _____
Please use this gift:
☐ where most needed
☐ for Incentive Bibles

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I'll give this Monthly:	I'll give this Annually:
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(day) (night)

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

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

☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard
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(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.

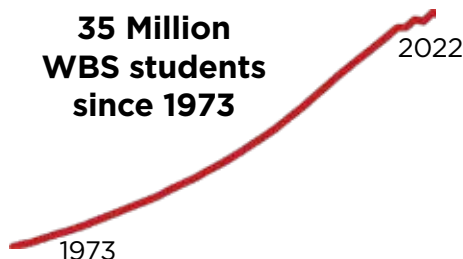
Tell me more about: ☐ will planning
☐ income-producing gift options
☐ I am } including WBS in my will
☐ I am considering } or other estate plans.

10,000,000 FOR CHRIST

is producing eternal fruit for the Kingdom!

WBS always reminds people that every soul is important, potentially the seed that falls on fertile soil (as the parable goes). But it's no surprise that the WBS evangelism process must work through some numbers before receptive Students become apparent, continuing their studies and eventually producing fruit. Indeed, looking back at numbers of WBS students enrolled since 1973, it's simple to estimate some 35 million souls having studied with WBS. Our

**35 Million
WBS students
since 1973**



10,000,000 for Christ campaign is an effort to reach many more people so we can teach many more people. We want use to

every medium we have in order to sow the seed of the Gospel into as many hearts as possible. And we have developed new ways to appropriately measure the results that will come. That means there will be more WBS students we can teach, more who will respond in faith and more who will put on Christ in baptism. As God's people, we are simply called to share the Gospel and it is God who gives the increase. Join us in our effort to reach **10,000,000** souls for Christ.

Total: 2,087,557

20.9%

These numbers (as of July 31) count more than just student registrations, but all the ways God has enabled us to share the Gospel through our tools. Each number represents a soul who was presented the Gospel through one of our many outreach efforts. Learn more at worldbibleschool.net/10m4c

463K

Printed Lesson Offers

59K

Study Bibles Distributed

1.2M

Online Lesson Offers

362K

Mathetis Offers

Continued from Gift form on page 5

Please make my gift a tribute.

Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts 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.**

☐ **HONOR GIFT** ☐ Birthday ☐ Anniversary
☐ Illness ☐ Friendship ☐ Other _____

☐ **MEMORIAL GIFT**

For:

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

City _____ ST _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Their relationship to Honoree _____

Daddy loved WBS so much



We were saddened recently to hear that Ray Jones, of the Mayfair church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama, had passed away. We were heartened, however, to receive a note from the family on behalf of Ray. Included was the above quote and this one: "He was a special Christian man who loved sharing God's Word with others." The note also exhorted WBS to help fulfill Ray's legacy and

"continue to grow God's Kingdom."

That's what Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts are all about: paying tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to share Jesus with WBS. Thank you for your gifts that honor others and "continue to grow the Kingdom."

IN HONOR OF

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Sue Bailey

Courtney Campbell

Sherrill & Suzanne Bennett

Edwin D. Hendrix

Suzanne Bennett

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Winston

Becky Wise

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Lawrence R. Wooden

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Chad Wright

Charles & Margie
Anderson

Nathan Zant

Rex & Patsy Zant

LESSON UPDATE: A New First Chapter to This Is Good News



We are always receiving and considering editorial adjustments to our courses from our army of Study Helpers. Each suggestion that we receive we keep for review before our next print run.

For many years, we have been aware that a number of cultures have

difficulty with understanding a Biblical timeline. Cultures that have foundational beliefs in reincarnation often struggle with the Bible's revelation of a linear timeline.

God's way of viewing reality, however, is based on "In the beginning...". Our very ability to reason in a linear fashion where revealed truths can become the foundation of our lives depends on us sharing God's understanding of time.

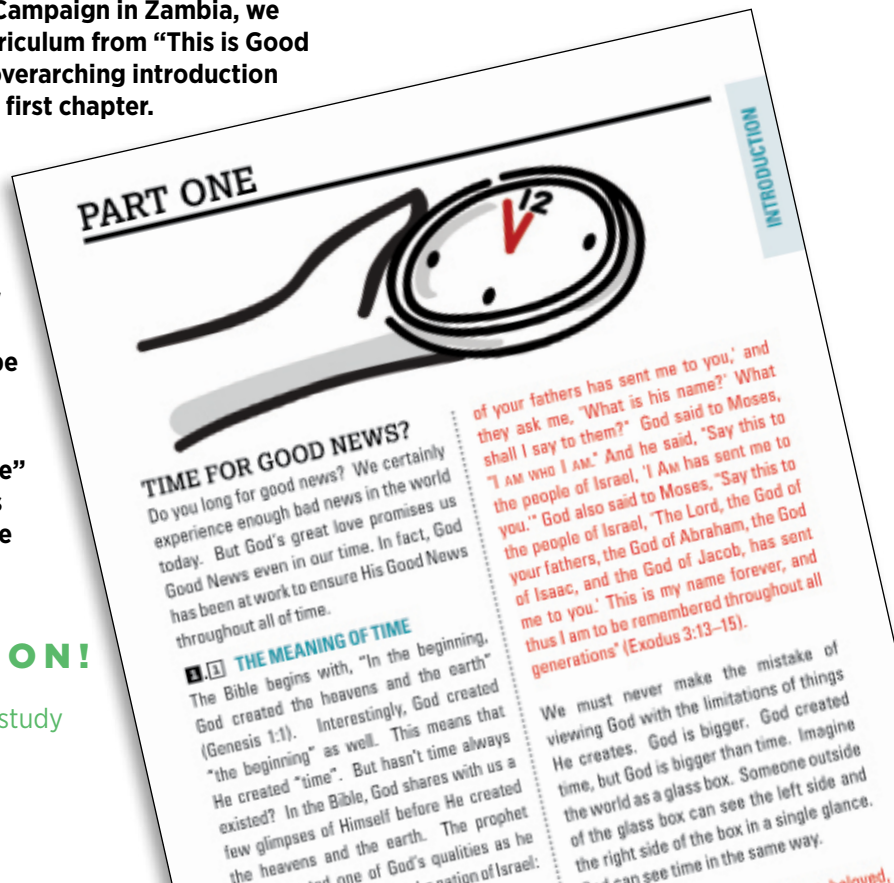
In our recent WBS Gospel Campaign in Zambia, we tested a revision of our curriculum from "This is Good News" which provides an overarching introduction to God's timeline within its first chapter.

We have decided to go to print with this material and will be deploying it on our teaching website as well. Your Answer Key will still work with this new Printed Lesson version, though the questions will be different.

We welcome your input of this new chapter. "Part One" will cover the first 12 pages of the booklet replacing the previous "Part One".



Kierstyn Bell, one of our WBS campaigners from the Hillcrest church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, teaches God's timeline from the new curriculum. Her students are from a culture that is unfamiliar with this Bible concept.



CALL TO ACTION!

Order this and other WBS study materials at 877-393-0211.



psalm 127.4

RAISING ARROWS →
in a digital world

Included with Anil
(top right) are:
**Benzamma, Naga lakshmi,
Suresh, Yesuratnam, Vijay
Kumar, Srikanth**



Meeting **New Generations** “Where They Are”

BY **DEREK DRAKE** CEDAR PARK, TEXAS
WBS CHURCH RELATIONS

The Pew Research Institute always provides interesting viewpoints on our American society. According to Pew, there are currently seven living generations in America: the Greatest Generation (1901-1927), the Silent Generation (1928-1945), Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1980), Millennials (1981-1996) and Generation Z (1997-??). If you're a “mathologist,” you will likely notice only six generations. That's because the chronological end of Gen Z has yet to be stamped and their children are the next generation.

Life experiences, global politics, society and culture have changed drastically from the generation that lived through the Great Depression to today's youngest generations suffering from the highest rates of depression. The generational gaps that exist in our society must not be ignored, rather be recognized and respected. When we consider how to overcome barriers in communicating with new generations, we must first admit barriers exist and avoid putting up more barriers that sever the communication loop.

Are we preparing the next generation to lead Christ's church for generations to come? Are we instilling in them the same fervor for the Scriptures and faith as Lois and Eunice did for Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5)? The ways this is accomplished is vastly different for each generation. Consider just how far technology has come since the days of weeks-long tent revivals. There's an old adage in marketing: “Go where the people are.” That's how tent



The cover of the March **ACTION!** featured Anil Kumar (above) and Christians in India. Anil is a devoted WBS partner who enrolls many in India as WBS students. He also proactively touts WBS tools like the WBS App for reaching new generations “where they are.”



revivals worked! The same goes for communicating with new generations. We must communicate where they are communicating.

Many are appalled when I tell them of the “popular” videos circulating TikTok and Instagram promoting “deconstructionism” and sin-approving doctrines. Their following is large, their tone is gentle, their content is

engaging and they seem trustworthy. The wolves have more than just sheep's clothing today. We must engage our next generations with the truth of God's Word, communicating it

in ways they can absorb and understand. Let us remain grounded in that truth and continue growing in the ways we communicate it. I hope you will join us as we strive to accomplish this as well. Stay tuned!

**CALL TO
ACTION!**

WBS tools help “us remain grounded in the truth of God's Word.”

To find out how and to get involved, call me today at 512-345-8190, ext 727.

INVESTING IN OUR NEXT GENERATION

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



"I'm really worried about how many young people are just walking away from things they have been taught all their life! What are we doing?"

Visiting with individuals throughout our brotherhood, this is one of the main concerns I hear. Any parent or grandparent will tell you that one of their biggest concerns is the spiritual wellbeing of their children and grandchildren. This is a concern that we must address quickly! However, this concern is not new. It has existed from ancient times – remember Moses' admonition to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 6:4-9? He even repeats this in Deuteronomy 11:18-21: "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart, and on your soul...You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up." (NASB)

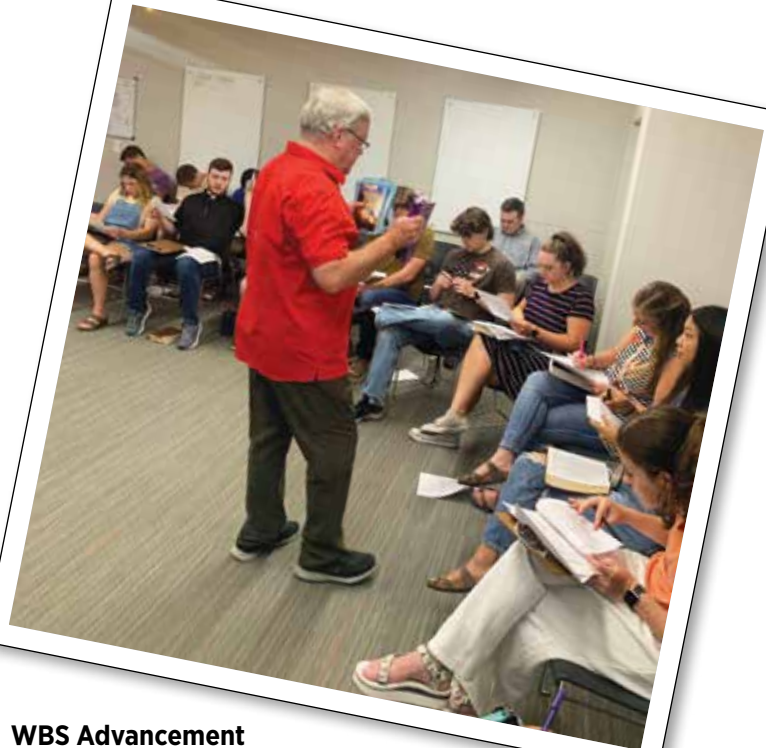
*WE HAVE DEVELOPED **TOOLS** TO HELP US **TEACH AND TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATIONS.***

It is of utmost importance for the older generations among us to teach and train the younger generations. We see this practice in the top companies around the world through professional mentoring programs. So why not do something similar in our congregations? After all, mentoring was taken directly from Scripture. (Moses mentored Joshua with fantastic results—before Fortune 500 companies had implemented their programs!)

This important topic is one we at WBS take very seriously. Through your partnership, we have developed tools to help teach and train (mentor) the next generations. It is important to remember that for the children of Israel it only took a single generation for them to stray away from Creator God to those gods of the people around them...so let's act now!

CALL TO ACTION!

At Concord Road church of Christ, one Wednesday night a month, the youth come together to grade printed WBS lessons from Ghana. Christians of all ages gather, with younger teens paired with older teens and adults who can train and assist them. Each lesson they grade represents a soul who is searching and each young person is becoming invested in that soul's eternal salvation. Keith O'Neal and the Concord Road congregation have created an environment where each young person is welcomed, needed and valued. When a young person feels these three things, they are more apt to be engaged and take the development of their faith seriously. Multiple generations are investing in the lives of the younger generations and mentoring them in the Great Commission! For more information about this great program and others like it, please contact us.



WBS Advancement Representative, David Harper, is a deacon at the Concord Road church of Christ in Brentwood, TN. Here, David is equipping the next generation to spread the Gospel through a WBS Printed Lesson teaching. Keith O'Neil, the congregation's Youth and College Minister (see his article on page 12), implemented this program into their regular Wednesday night class rotations.



Reaction to **ACTION!**

BY **KEITH W. O'NEAL** BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE
YOUTH MINISTER
CONCORD ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST



Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, what profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?

(Ecc 1:2-3) The word *vanity*, used 37 times in Ecclesiastes, means “futility” or “uselessness”. The phrase *under the sun*, used 28 times, means “apart from God” or some would say a “humanist” worldview. To sum up Solomon’s wise conclusion, life under the sun (*without* God) is vanity.

Some folks see Solomon’s words in Ecclesiastes and think...*how depressing, everything is meaningless...* but that is not his point. Everything, without God in the picture, is meaningless. Too often we shield young people from this

**EVERYTHING, WITHOUT GOD
IN THE PICTURE, IS MEANINGLESS.**

reality, if even with the best intentions. In the name of “keeping them interested” we do every fun activity (under the sun) we can think of and are left wondering...why did they leave the church?

Our focus on young people—and really all ages—should take into account Solomon’s wisdom: everything without God is meaningless. We need to strive to show our young people their purpose and role in our church family. The fact is, building relationships is vanity if we are not building them to the glory of God. We need to show young people that relationships are important opportunities to encourage one another, spread God’s Word and serve His Kingdom.

That’s where the double value of connecting our young people with World Bible School is evident. Yes, through WBS we give glory to God by reaching the lost. But we can also use WBS to provide purpose to our young people. WBS is a game plan for how they can accomplish their mission as Christians—spreading seed, sharing the story of Jesus. By grading lessons and writing encouragement

notes, our young people find purpose and give God glory. By using Mathetis as a scaffolding for conversations, they build

confidence and see purpose in their relationships.

WBS allows people of all ages, especially



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