



# ACTION!

M A G A Z I N E   F A L L   8 7 : 4

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Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be  
like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24 ESV



# Building for Eternity

Princes & Kings



The cover of this issue of **ACTION!** showcases Shadae and Shaden Shabalala who are young adults in Durban, South Africa who attended a WBS Gospel Meeting to learn how they can use WBS tools too.

Pictured in this article is a WBS Student from Ghana Prep program who is receiving her Incentive Bible as she graduates alongside several other classmates after completing the WBS “Master Series”.



Brian Rex Davis

CEDAR PARK, TEXAS  
WBS ACTION! EDITOR AND PRESIDENT

"Isn't it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings  
And common people like you and me  
Are builders of eternity?  
Each is given a book of rules  
A shapeless mass, a box of tools;  
And each must shape ere life is gone,  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone."  
(R. Lee Sharpe)

My missions professor, Dr. Joe D. Gray, used to quote this poem often as he mentored us young missionary trainees. Some of the tools that Bro. Gray equipped each of us students with were the tools of World Bible School. Training as a missionary is not just an academic exercise, it is a practical matter. Furthermore, missionaries are mission multipliers, which is to say ...

*"... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

**2 Timothy 2:2 ESV**

What we have "heard" is the Word of God. But not everyone has had the opportunity to have a study of the Word for themselves. As a builders of eternity, I must ask myself, "What will I shape ere life is gone, a stumbling block or a stepping stone?"

WBS seeks to equip every willing Christian with the tools for building stepping stones for eternity.

The most important tool of all is the Bible, itself. Since 2017, WBS has been able to provide the brotherhood with **500,000** of our study edition Bibles. Our study material in the back of the Bible lovingly guides seekers to see what the Bible says for itself.

The study notes mirror our "Master Series" Bible correspondence courses providing Study Helpers with integrated tools for sharing Jesus. Our current Study Edition Bible is published in the NKJV and comes with a basic concordance and Jesus' words in red plus our WBS Study Notes.

For several years, we have offered our Study Bible Incentive program where generous Christians can provide a free Bible to Students who have completed five of our course booklets. Each of these Incentive Bibles cost \$8.

**Builders of eternity... what an exciting privilege!**



## URGENT NEED

We are currently running low in stock of our Incentive Bibles in Ghana, Africa. Would you consider helping us send **8,000 Bibles** so we can continue motivating Students to study God's Word. We are seeking **\$64,000** by the end of 2023 to meet this need.

WBS Incentive Bible Program offers free WBS Study Bibles for Printed and Online Lesson Students who complete the "Master Series" through *Born of Water and Spirit* (the fifth course in the series). See page 13 for instructions on how you can give.

To send your qualifying Student an Incentive Bible, simply call our office at (512)345-8190. Study Helpers only need to pay a small fee to help with shipping (\$4 for United States Students and \$10 for international Students). Visit [worldbibleschool.net/incentivebible](http://worldbibleschool.net/incentivebible), to learn more.



**Harry Cybulski** (2040 Walden Ct., Flint, MI 48532-2421) collects U.S. and foreign stamps, sells them to collectors and sends the proceeds to WBS. Please forward any stamps to Harry for this special commitment. Harry, thank you for your many years of service.



This past summer, President Brian Rex Davis and his wife, Sondra, started a journey across the United States visiting with churches and World Bible School volunteers. **At the end of July of 2023, WBS marked 50 years of empowering the brotherhood to share Jesus.** As we reflect upon how God has used forward-thinking Christians within our past, we are inspired to continue God's work for the next 50 years and beyond. This is why in 2024, we will be celebrating **Fifty Forward!**

The journey began with Brian and Sondra at the Portland church of Christ in Portland, Tennessee. This is where WBS founder, Jimmie Lovell, grew up and was baptized into Christ. They still have the record of his baptism in the church library! WBS owes a great debt of gratitude to this vibrant and faithful congregation as they taught a young man to love Jesus and to love the lost! Through Jimmie's vision, tens of thousands of Study Helpers have taught millions of Students around the world.



The second stop was the Connect Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in which WBS participated. The entire conference is focused on evangelism. As such, organizers like Phil Sanders of "In Search of the Lord's Way" television program, value WBS tools and our participation in the conference. There were over 1,200 participants in the Crieve Hall church of Christ auditorium being challenged to share Jesus with our nation and with the world. Several sessions were conducted by WBS as we contributed to this great endeavor of the churches of Christ.



The third stop was with the Central church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky with Adam Faughn and Noah Davis (Brian & Sondra's oldest son). This congregation is excited about sharing Jesus! Among their evangelism approaches are WBS tools: Mathetis, postal correspondence with WBS Printed Lesson, the WBS Study Edition Bible, and the new Ocean Bridge correspondence. When good tools are deployed together, a synergy happens that produces



fruit for the Kingdom. We are so thankful for the eldership, the ministry team, and the vibrant congregation of the Central church of Christ!



Stop number four was with the families at the Hermosa church of Christ in Artesia, New Mexico who gathered to learn how WBS tools can be helpful to them. This group was so inspiring as they discussed their love for the lost and their commitment to teaching the lost about Jesus!



The fifth stop of the trip was to see Keith Rall, a WBS Board member (pictured right), who introduced Brian and Sondra to the WBS team at the Taylor Street church of Christ in Hobbs, New Mexico. Their coordinator (and an elder of the congregation), Bob Hamilton, has been leading WBS evangelism in their congregation for several decades. Bob is pictured next to Brian along with one of the members of their youth group. This WBS team regularly involves their youth in grading WBS lessons. What a wonderful way to pass on the value of evangelism to the next generation.



Traveling into the ninth state on this trip (Arizona), Sondra often drives while Brian works remotely from the back seat of their van. Answering e-mails and phone calls, writing lessons, and attending ZOOM meetings all take place while on the road. Don't worry, Sondra was stopped in road construction traffic when she smiled for this picture.



After starting in Portland, Tennessee where Jimmie Lovell was born and baptized, the Davis' arrived in southern California where Jimmie lived and published *ACTION!*. John Reese, WBS President Emeritus, and his wife, Beth, were able to join the Davis' for a special presentation to Patsie Trowbridge, Jimmie Lovell's daughter. John presented Patsie with a new WBS story book that we are to print soon.

Patsie has been on the Board of Directors of WBS since its beginning, and still is. WBS honored Patsie and her late husband, Doug, with a plaque on the WBS Founder's Wall of Honor.



While speaking at the Lincoln & Tunnel church of Christ in Santa Maria, California, the leaders told Brian that Jake Coppinger, WBS' first full-time Follow-up worker, preached for them. Joel, Jake's son, and his wife Pat took up the work after Jake was unable to continue. Joel and Pat embody the value of honoring the past 50 years while energetically anticipating what God will do with WBS in the next 50 years.



For the last stop of this trip, Sondra and Brian toured the Roseville church of Christ WBS program. Jim & Virginia McPeak (far left) not only serve with WBS but have served the Lord's church with a print ministry for many years. Their work has blessed so many countries and ministries! The joy of this team was infectious as they were printing and collating WBS in Swahili and other languages.



WORLD  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL



# THANK YOU

Because of your hard work and generosity, since January 1, 2022, we have offered a Bible study to more than **10,000,000** souls!



As of September 30, 2023, WBS has offered a Bible study to **11,823,032** souls.

The goal of “**10,000,000** for Christ” is to inspire God’s people to sow the seed of the Gospel into the hearts of souls in need of Jesus. You have proven God can accomplish incredible achievements through His people. Yet this is just the beginning. There is even greater potential within the tools God has entrusted to us. Please partner with us as we continue to advance the Gospel of Christ throughout the world!

118% Completed



**10,000,000**  
FOR CHRIST

From the **11,823,032** souls you have offered an opportunity to study the Bible, it has led **2.4 Million** souls to accept the Bible study offer.

**1.38M**

Printed Lessons  
Students Enrolled

**244K**

Online Lessons  
Students Registered

**100K**

Study Bibles  
Distributed

**685K**

Mathetis Original  
Video Views



*Jose Rosado being baptized by Tim Gean.*

*Bottom photo Jose and Tim celebrate with their families after Jose's baptism.*



## Another Seeker Connected to Christ

BY **BILL COLWELL** | AUSTIN, TEXAS | CHURCH RELATIONS REP

On August 3, Jose Rosado was baptized into Christ by Timothy (Tim) Gean, preacher at the Shiawassee church of Christ in Owosso, Michigan (a congregation with an average Sunday attendance of 16). The baptism took place at the Waterford, Michigan church of Christ, about 20 minutes from Jose's home in Pontiac.

Jose learned about WBS on the internet, and registered as an Online Student. At the same time, the Shiawassee congregation had set up a WBS Connect Web Target that extended 75 miles from Owosso in each direction. After Jose registered, the four members at Shiawassee who are Study Helpers received an email notifying them of the new Student inside their Web Target. Tim adopted Jose and began studying with him online.

Jose quickly completed the lessons. He said he was fed up with the path he had taken into sin, ashamed of things he had done. Fortunately for him, WBS showed him the way out. Jose is now our brother in the Lord, and attends the Waterford church of Christ.

Jose is a perfect example of a seeker hearing and responding to the Gospel message presented in WBS lessons, shared by a dedicated Study Helper. Tim Gean and the members at the Shiawassee church of Christ are proof WBS outreach tools can help any congregation, large or small, share the Gospel where they live and beyond.

As for Tim, he is sold on WBS. Tim said, "Through the World Bible School, this man inhaled the lessons, sometimes doing 2-3 per week. **I learned to love Jose, his heart, attitude and hunger for the word of God.** Now he is our brother in Christ. It made my year."

Upon my first visit, Tim was only interested and "thinking about" teaching with WBS. After reaching out to me again later this year, I hosted multiple seminars and tutorials with their congregation on Sunday evenings over Zoom. During this process, we set up a Web Target in May, which is what ultimately led them to Jose.



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**ACTION!**  
NEWS



Monica Lukhere and her Follow-up partner.

## Never too Late for Follow-up

After completing her Online courses in 2020, Monica Lukhere in Malawi requested Follow-up in August 2023. We were able to connect her to one of our Follow-up Partners, who baptized her into Christ. Monica now rejoices as a new child of God. Monica wrote to her Follow-up partner, "I would like to thank you for blessing me today. I really appreciate everything you have done." Never give up on sharing the Gospel! We are called to plant and water, but it is God who gives the increase.

Learn more about our Follow-up program or apply as a Follow-up Coordinator or Partner by visiting [worldbibleschool.net/follow-up](https://worldbibleschool.net/follow-up).



Zambia Team 2023: Melvin Kalinmanshila - driver Jimmy - Thomas Sakala - Rodgers Chuulu - David Harper with WBS and Concord Road church of Christ in Brentwood, TN

## Zambia Prison Ministries

Over three decades ago, Ruth Orr with Church Street in Lewisburg, TN studied with WBS students in Zambia Africa. Today those same students who obeyed the Gospel have shared the Good News with thousands in their country of Zambia. Thomas Sakala, Rodgers Chuulu, and Melvin Kalinmanshila share lessons in 11 different prisons from Livingston in the South, North to Chingola in the Copperbelt and East to Serenje.

Teachers with Concord Road church of Christ in Brentwood, Tennessee partner and support these brothers in the work. In September alone, there were **87 baptisms in just three of the maximum-security prisons**. With the development of Ocean Bridge and God's continued blessings, we expect this effort to be shared with many thousands of those who hunger for the Hope they are desperately searching for.



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John and Inez Carney

## “Marketplace Ministry”

John and Inez Carney, who live in Pueblo West, Colorado, continue to find creative ways to share the Gospel. Several years ago they passed out “kindness kits” (which included water, food and toiletry items, a WBS Intro lesson and a note stating “Here’s something to get you through the day, and something to get you through eternity.”) to the homeless. Next they began mailing WBS Intro courses to everyone in the Pueblo West telephone book.

In 2020, John and Inez began what he calls their “marketplace ministry”, patterned after Paul’s practice in Acts 17 of going into the marketplace to preach Jesus. It works like this. John and Inez park their car in front of a local grocery store and put a magnetic sign on their car door that reads “Free Bible”. They stack WBS Bibles on a tray hooked onto the open window and one of them sits in the car to give away Bibles to those who ask for them.

They also sometimes go to the shopping mall food court and into local Starbucks, where they set up a “Free Bible” tabletop sign. John said that this worked well until one man complained about the sign. Not being discouraged, John printed “Free Bible” on T-shirts that he and Inez wore to become walking billboards for their ministry.

**John and Inez have personally given away 488 WBS Bibles.** They have had discussions with a large group of Jehovah Witnesses **and have had two men request baptism.** Their helpers, Chad and Beth Potokar and Steve Holloway, have given away dozens more Bibles in recent years. When expressing his excitement to encourage others, John wrote, **“Anyone can do this work.”**

*On September 21, 2023, Inez passed away at the age of 94. Please remember John and the Carney family in your prayers. John, thank you for your and Inez’s example in service to the Lord.*



Carneys offer free Bibles.

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## God is Working in Malawi

BY **STEVE GOBER**  
DECATUR, ALABAMA  
REGIONAL REP FOR ADVANCEMENT

In March 2022, I logged onto [worldbibleschool.org](http://worldbibleschool.org) and was searching for Students in Malawi, Africa on the World Bible School Student Board. From that list I adopted a man named Juap William.

As it turned out, Juap was a Pentecostal preacher and I thought this might become interesting. As we went through the lessons, we began to exchange a few messages and Juap was asking some serious questions. He completed all seven studies of the “Master Series”, but had not yet obeyed the Gospel. I did not want to give up on him. So as we continued to exchange messages, I would send him some more information on subjects he would asked about. We stayed in touch until I traveled to Malawi in July, at which time I invited him to attend a seminar I was planning for all WBS Students in Malawi and Mozambique. Juap and his wife both attended the seminar and at the end of the day he told me he thoroughly enjoyed the time and had learned a lot about the Bible.

He invited me to come visit his Pentecostal church and present the same material. We arranged a time when I could come and at the conclusion of the studies, Juap, his wife and 10 other members of that church were baptized into Christ!



Juap William's Baptism



Then Juap revealed to me that he also served as a bishop in the Pentecostal church and oversaw 16 other congregations. He wanted me to visit all of them and teach the material I had presented to him. My schedule would only allow me to visit one other location, at which, three more put Christ on in baptism.

Juap was so excited about his newfound faith and his discovery of truth. He said it all made sense now. He then shared his journey of faith with me. Juap was brought up as a Muslim, became interested in Christianity and began studying the Bible. He started attending a Presbyterian church, thinking any church claiming to be Christian would be ok, but never gave up on his search for truth.

In his studies, he learned that he needed to be baptized by immersion for the remission of sins. However, the Presbyterian church only sprinkled and even that was not for remission of sins. So, his quest for scriptural baptism led him to the Pentecostals and that is where I found him. His heart was still open to learning the truth and when he heard it, just like the good soil Jesus talked about in Luke 8, he received it and is bringing forth fruit!

Sadly, I had to leave without visiting all the other Pentecostal congregations Juap was affiliated with, so I printed copies of all the studies I had presented and left them with him. I told him he would have to teach it to them. He met with all 16 churches the next week after my departure and presented the material to them. Later that day, he sent me the following email:

"I taught what you taught me from the Bible. All 16 branches have agreed and been converted. All are changing their names to church of Christ and are following the New Testament church. We all agreed to follow the truth, not because we want to please you, but God who sent you to us."

**There were 389 souls converted from the error of Pentecostalism to true New Testament Christianity!** Juap is continuing to study and teach as he and some of the brethren from the Tambala church of Christ in Blantyre, Malawi visit and encourage these new babes in Christ.

**"We all agreed to follow the truth, not because we want to please you, but God who sent you to us."**

**-Juap William**

Little did I know on that March evening, about one year ago, when I adopted a WBS Student named Juap William that God would bring about such a great harvest of souls. **So far, including the 80 baptisms that I was a part of on my trip, there have been over 550 precious souls brought to the Lord!** Truly, this was a work of the Lord!

Are there others like Juap on the online Student Board ready for adoption? Only God knows! Will you obey God's call to share the Gospel and let Him perform incredible works through you?

Get started today! Apply to become an online Study Helper at **[worldbibleschool.net/teach](http://worldbibleschool.net/teach)**.



## **Recent Update in Malawi!**

**Watch now! Steve Gober interviews Juap William**



I returned to Malawi this year to continue to teach the former Pentecostal members to remain grounded in their faith. They were excited for my visit and invited others to join in the studies. During my visit **there were 111 more baptisms**. The fields are truly ripe for harvest in Malawi!

To watch an interview with Steve Gober and Juap William scan the QR code or visit **[worldbibleschool.net/juap](http://worldbibleschool.net/juap)**.





# Hungary for the Bible

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

Lynn Camp tells of a time when he used to visit Budapest, behind the Iron Curtain. He met Ivan Martos who had permission to travel to Vienna, Austria, for bank business. On one of Ivan's trips, Hungarian guards entered his train just before the Austrian border and found Ivan's Bible. Angrily shouting, "What is a man in your position doing with a Bible?" the guard threw the Bible out the window of the moving train. Ivan was distraught. He poured out the discouraging story when Lynn met him at the Vienna train station.

About two years later, on another trip to Vienna, they met, and this time Ivan was overjoyed. He had received a postal package in Budapest—it was his Bible. An apologetic note accompanied the Bible:

Our children were playing one day along the railroad tracks and found your Bible. Not knowing what it was, one of them took it to his grandmother who immediately recognized it as a Bible. Word quickly spread through the little village on the border. Some of our older people had possessed Bibles before they were banned and remembered the significance and power of the Word of God. We decided to conceal the discovery while those who so desired would make handwritten copies. That joyful task lasted two years. Please forgive our keeping your Bible so long. But you might like to know that we are now a secret band of about 30 who have baptized each other and seek to follow Jesus in our daily lives.

The Bible is God's inspired correspondence! It contains His Gospel seed that is so effective wherever it is sown. It always produces fruit when it encounters "good soil" hearts. That is why we promote Bibles for Millions. Most people are like the Ethiopian official who was reading Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" and the reply was, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:30-31) People need help. Therefore, more than Bible distribution, Bibles for Millions is Bibles with relationships. WBS Study Helpers send Bibles to their Students whose studies prove their interest. Your generosity allows WBS to make the Bible free, with Study Helpers or their congregations just paying for the shipping to qualified students.

As Lynn's story shows, the gift of a Bible is priceless! For many poorer Students, our WBS courses are the first booklets ever received, and our WBS Study Bible is the first book they've ever owned. What excitement! And what a combination. The Bible's study notes parallel WBS courses. For Students who have already taken WBS courses, the Bible's study notes delve deeper. They dive into new discoveries for personal ownership of the truth. For recipients yet to take courses, the Bible offers the same helps and invites them into the interactive studies with a personal Study Helper. Either way, this Bible fosters relationships that sow the seed and bear fruit. The Bible with relationships leads to the ultimate relationship: "This is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).





# Join our \$1.5 Million Match and Challenge!

God is blessing our goals for reaching the lost and helping us raise the funds to do so. Every dollar you give will double our efforts to accomplish these incredible goals for sharing Jesus.

\$1,237,842.90 Raised as of 10/22/23

**\$1.5 Million**



## A Mission Multiplier

BY **PAT BROWN**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
SENIOR MANAGER OF ADVANCEMENT

What do 10 million people look like? What do they sound like? Can you imagine a crowd of 10 million souls gathered together? That is exactly what the 2023 WBS Match and Challenge is all about. Early in 2023 we had generous donors come to us to ask what \$1.5 million could accomplish as a challenge for others to come alongside them to help build the church. Our answer was simple: "Millions being able to study God's word this year alone".

On page one Brian stated, "Missionaries are mission multipliers." We are asking you to be just that: a mission multiplier! Jesus reminds us

in Matthew 7:24 that a wise man not only hears the Gospel but puts it into practice because he is building his house upon a rock. We know that rock is Jesus, the great foundation for the church and for us.

So, when you think about what 10 million people look like, imagine the builder and mission multiplier you can be. Ten million souls looks like *You Sharing Jesus*.

To give, fill out and mail the form below or scan the QR code. For real time results, please go to **[worldbibleschool.net/2023matchandchallenge](http://worldbibleschool.net/2023matchandchallenge)**. Be a mission multiplier today.

## HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

Write "2023 Match and Challenge" in your check's memo or give online.

Please accept my **GIFT** of:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

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By selecting "Recurring" you become a member of our **Sowing the Seed Gift Program**. Learn how your recurring gift can impact WBS at [worldbibleschool.net/sowingtheseed](http://worldbibleschool.net/sowingtheseed).

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# The Sower who went out to Sow

BY **TIM YAEGER** | CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER



*Edith "Edie" Connel*

June 9, 1939 - August 20, 2023

To honor her memory, donations can be made to WBS by mail to **PO Box 2169, Cedar Park TX 78630** or online at **[worldbibleschool.net/give](http://worldbibleschool.net/give)**.

How can I express the impact of Edie Connel on the work of World Bible School? Words such as vast, immeasurable and long-lasting come to mind. Yet, with such words, they don't do full service to her impact. I can begin to comprehend this answer by thinking of Jesus' parable of the sower.

Edie was the kind of sower we read about in the Bible. Her dedication to teaching the Gospel, mentoring fellow workers, helping other Christians share Jesus, and connecting souls ready to respond is described perfectly in Jesus' parable. I declare Edie's earthly life is producing 100 times what was sown. How is this possible? Edie was a sower who went out to sow the seed daily. Her last conversation with me involved her comfort in knowing we had her contacts and computer. She was at peace knowing the sowing would continue.

This sower arose early in the morning and sowed seed late into the night. She invested her retirement years in giving, serving and sowing. Because Edie didn't brag, I wasn't aware of how much time she spent working for WBS until her son, Don, told me he would see her working in the morning and still at her desk at 11 at night.

As her "boss," I always felt I should be learning from her experience, and her opinion carried much weight in my decisions. Edie taught me to be considerate and compassionate for other

sowers in the field. Sowers who had difficulty changing farm tools and sowers who just needed conversation and encouragement. Her example of patiently talking on the phone for hours has had a tremendous impact on how the WBS Support department cares for fellow sowers.

Upon sending out the announcement of Edie's passing, WBS and other social media accounts received hundreds of responses from Study Helpers, Follow-up Partners, Students, and nearly anyone you can imagine on the geographic, cultural, and language spectrum who were impacted by this sower.

If Edie were here with us today, she would tell us to find the lonely, disheartened, and ADOPT seeking students who need a loving Christian to share Jesus and be willing to FOLLOW-UP! That is what Edie's WBS life was all about. She found inexpressible joy seeing follow-up completed over the years as she received pictures of thousands of souls obeying the Gospel and enjoying a new Life and Hope in Christ.

This faith and this HOPE can only happen when a sower simply goes out to sow. Be a sower, make more sowers, and treasure the memory of this sower, Edie Connel.

Visit **[worldbibleschool.net/follow-up](http://worldbibleschool.net/follow-up)** to assist with Follow-up and **[worldbibleschool.net/teach](http://worldbibleschool.net/teach)** to apply to become an online Study Helper. You can also call our office at **(512) 345-8190**.

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*See page 4 for more info.*

**Thank you to everyone who supported our  
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F O R  C H R I S T

*With special thanks to our guest speakers:*

Tucson Redd, Searcy Dinner  
David Shannon, Nashville Dinner  
Eric Owens, Austin Dinner

If you would like to watch a video of our guest speakers or give to support the work of WBS please  
**scan the QR code** or visit [worldbibleschool.net/action](https://worldbibleschool.net/action) and select the **WBS Dinners** category.

