



ACTION!

M A G A Z I N E | S U M M E R 2 0 2 5



MENTORING IN TEACHING

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BY BRIAN REX DAVIS | ACTION! EDITOR & WBS PRESIDENT



Christianity is a taught religion. Other approaches to religion exist: ritual religion, philosophical religion, political cause religion, economic aspiration religion, ancestor communication religion. Regardless, religion becomes a major factor in any culture's worldview, how they perceive and categorize reality.

Christianity is unique. As a taught religion, we are invited to study and consider the revelation of God to man. Many religions begin with man and try to work their way back to God often resulting in gods being made in the image of mankind. The biblical definition of "faith" includes a mental grappling with revealed truth.



"It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me." (John 6:45 NASU)

The Biblical definition of faith continues to the inner man, to heart conviction.

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Finally, the faith that is depicted from the time of Noah all the way to the era inaugurated by Christ, always includes obedient behavior.

"For just as the body without the spirit is dead so also faith without works is dead." (James 2:26)

In this issue, we look at two aspects of Mentoring in Teaching:

1. the "faith" (Jude 3), the body of truth, that must be taught, and
2. the quality, being made in the image of God, that allows us to teach the faith.

Let's begin by seeing a selection of recent pictures and reports of those whose lives have been touched by those Study Helpers who daily teach and ultimately by the Word of God itself!

This picture was taken in 2005. Sondra and I were missionaries in Cape Town, South Africa, at the time. This is Ivan, a World Bible School Student. Ivan could barely see. He read his courses and the Bible with great difficulty. He hand-wove baskets to support his family. Ivan not only became a Christian, but he also became a wonderful leader in the Lord's church.

We recently learned of Ivan's passing from this life into the life promised to us by Jesus Christ. Though our prayers are with his family, our hearts are full of rejoicing in Ivan's victory. As our WBS team prayed for comfort for his family, the one leading the prayer thanked God that Ivan is SEEING the face of Jesus now. Face to face with our Savior, what a victory that is indeed!



INDIA

Anil Kumar sent:

Our outreaching team efforts brought another 46 enrollments this week for WBS. Praise God as we continue our studies.



BRAZIL

Note from Tim Brumfield:

The WBS Seminar in Itabuna, Bahia, Brazil, finished yesterday 2025-4-27 and God converted two souls there: Marialda de Jesus Lima and José Raimundo Vieira de Souza

KENYA

Lite App Student, Teddy, was submitted for Follow-up by his Study Helper, Ronald, in March 2025. Follow-up Partner arranged baptism for Teddy in Homa Bay, Kenya. Teddy was baptized in early May 2025 and connected with a local congregation.



NEW WBS CLASS BOOK EXPLORES UNITY IN EPHESIANS

BY JOHN REESE | PRESIDENT EMERITUS



In the context of church unity, someone has said, “Our movement is the only one that achieved the exact opposite of its original purposes.” When that quote was sent to me, I replied, “Actually, our movement is not the only one. The first One to start a unity movement (John 10, 17) was Jesus. To all appearances, the result to date has been a disaster, the exact opposite of His purpose, with over 40,000 Christian denominations, and splinters within many of those. That is why this WBS curriculum booklet, ‘Unity in Christ,’ was written — to shine a biblical perspective on that impression.”



Jesus did not create the chaos of modern Christendom. Just as Jesus predicted, His enemy has sown wicked weeds. They thrive in His field and compete with His crop (Matthew 13:24-30). So, do we despair? Or do we trust that Jesus' "good seed" still grows to be harvested at His return? Do we seek new interpretations that align with our disappointment? Or do we let Jesus define unity (John 17:20-23) and its seven "ones" (Ephesians 4:1-6)?

ONE GOD AND FATHER

In Ephesians, God is first "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:3), then as the Father of all, He adopts "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3-5). Ephesians is God's welcome letter to adopted Gentiles: "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). One Father has one family. He is neither a polygamist nor an adulterer.

ONE LORD

The "one Lord" is Jesus. He reigns at the Father's right hand, "far above all rule and authority" (Ephesians 1:20-21). "One Lord" leads in one direction. Other leaders take people in other directions (Matthew 7:13-23; 24:5; Acts 20:29-30). Beware of invented Christs (Mark 13:22; 2 Corinthians 11:4). Listen only to one Shepherd whose voice gathers one flock (John 10:16; Matthew 23:8).

ONE SPIRIT

How do we hear the Shepherd's voice that unites one flock? In Ephesians, the Holy Spirit is the Revealer. He has revealed Christ's truth through the apostles and prophets, leading to "the unity of the faith" (Ephesians 2:20; 3:5; 4:11-13; 6:17). The Spirit is also the Resident, God's way of dwelling in us (Ephesians 2:21-22; 3:16-17; 5:18). Since all who are "in Christ"

share one Spirit, we are "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

ONE FAITH

Which is the "one faith"? Each denomination has its own crystalized creed - though often diluted now to suit Postmodern ambiguity. Here is an interesting question: In which part of Ephesians does Paul present the "one faith"? Just the foundational truths in the first half? Or is the second half included? Or is it only initial faith for conversion to Christ? For Paul, "the unity of the faith" is about "mature manhood ... the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).



One might think, "But brother Paul, that is too much on which to expect agreement." Think of it this way: Can we be united on "one Lord" though we cannot comprehend everything about His greatness? Similarly, "one faith" exists as objective reality, even when we have not mastered all of it. "All the truth" (John 16:13) has a unifying force that does not depend on our level of learning. We all—even newborns in Christ—can unite on it because "disciples" keep learning. We commit to "grow up in every way" into Christ's fullness (Ephesians 4:15). This holistic Christianity captures "every thought" for Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5), which is very

different from proposals that seek the minimum on which Christians can agree.

ONE BAPTISM

"One baptism" puzzles many today. They find baptism too controversial, too divisive for prominence as a pillar of unity. But New Testament Christians know baptism as a uniting experience. "All" come into Christ through baptism (Romans 6:3; Acts 2:38-41; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27). It enters Christ's death that cleanses, unites and empowers by His resurrection (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

ONE BODY

One head has one body, that is, one church (Ephesians 1:22-23). Christ's blood reconciles Jews and Gentiles "in one body through the cross" (Ephesians 2:13-16). How dare we split Christ's body or try to belong to any other body? When immature Corinthians tried to denominate—to divide by names—such a disgrace was not tolerated (1 Corinthians 1-4). Which is the "one body"? Ephesians 5:24 would reply, "The church [that] submits to Christ." Christ removes those who persist in disobedience (Acts 3:23; Revelation 2:5; 3:16). Who are members of Christ's body? Ephesians would reply, those who are "faithful in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:1).

ONE HOPE

Before creation, God planned to select those "in Christ" to be His children. Now, the Holy Spirit assures our inheritance (Ephesians 1:5, 11, 14). We all share the same destiny: "In the coming ages [God will] show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness" (Ephesians 2:7).

MISSION-TRUE MENTORING

PREVENTING DRIFT IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



BY JEFF A. JENKINS |

TRUSTEE OF FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY
WBS BOARD MEMBER



“Courageous Mission True leaders have stood unwaveringly upon the Truth of the

Gospel. In all areas, they have demonstrated intentionality and clarity in retaining Christian distinctiveness. They are committed to Christ, first and foremost.” These powerful words from the book “Mission Drift” remind us that Christian education must remain true to the Word of God.

The authors of this book further emphasize the need for accountability to prevent this drift and maintain faithfulness to the school’s original mission and purpose.

Mission Drift is real. We see it in colleges and universities around the globe. The list of one-time great universities that have abandoned their original mission is long and illustrious. Sadly, this can affect “our” schools as well.

Some of our Christian universities, founded on the veracity, authenticity and authority of God’s Holy Word, have strayed from their original

purpose. The good news is that Christian families can help Christian education stay true to its mission!

Christian families must encourage Christian universities to stay true to the inspired Word of God and their original mission. The authors of “Mission Drift” remind us what it means to be true to God and His Word. “Mission True organizations know why they exist and protect their core at all costs. They remain faithful to what they believe God has entrusted them to do. They define what is immutable: their values and purposes, their DNA,

their heart and soul ... To remain Mission True is to adapt and grow, so long as that adaptation and growth do not alter the core identity.”

President David R. Shannon of Freed-Hardeman University reminds us of the importance of these years for our young people. “For generations, Christian higher education has helped bridge the gap between adolescence and adulthood, developing the whole person spiritually, intellectually and relationally. Flavil Yeakley’s research found that Christian college graduates were more likely to maintain their faith into adulthood than those attending state universities, and we continue to see this at Freed-Hardeman.”

Some argue that the cost is too great and the results are not adequate. When asked about the cost, President Shannon states, “When discussions focus only on cost, we miss the deeper value: we’re investing in our children’s spiritual lives, and what they’re taught, who teaches them, and with whom they learn truly matter. Our Christ-centered approach makes us fundamentally different—we exist to ‘teach how to live and how to make a living, for His glory!’ It is also true that we are investing in the choices they will make during these formative years, about who they will marry and who will become their lifelong friends.”

It is not my conviction that it is the responsibility of Christian universities to create faith in the hearts of our children; that is the responsibility of the Christian home. However, we should at least expect that Christian universities will not remove, or

even replace with doubt, the faith we have attempted for years to instill in our children’s hearts.

The college years are among the most formative periods of a young person’s life as they move into adulthood. They are developing their own ideas, beliefs, values, choices and decisions. During these years, they will be influenced mightily by their peers, and perhaps even more so by their professors.

Dean of the College of Biblical Studies at Freed-Hardeman University, Justin Rogers, explained how crucial these years become. “Christian education is needed because emerging adults are at the prime age to develop their faith and philosophy of life, and godly Christian instructors and fellow students inevitably shape and deepen a student’s spirituality. The world needs faithful Christians in positions of influence, and higher education is America’s access card into those spaces.”

Those ultimately responsible for the Christian university’s commitment to the Word of God are the university’s trustees. Suppose they hire administrators who either do not know or do not care about their commitment to the Word. This will influence the hiring of deans, professors and other personnel within the university. Trustees have both the right and the obligation to know what is believed by presidents, deans of colleges, and professors, as well as what is being taught in the classroom.

It only takes one professor in a classroom telling students that the church and their parents have been wrong—wrong concerning what the student has been

taught about the inspiration of Scripture, the uniqueness of the church, how one becomes a Christian, our worship to our Father, God’s plan that one man be married to one woman, human sexuality, gender and many other critical biblical matters to undermine a student’s spiritual future.

So, what can we do? First and foremost, we can pray for our Christian universities. We can pray that they will remain faithful to God and His Word. We can pray that those who have drifted will return to their original mission. We can pray for trustees, school administrators, faculty, staff and our students.

Christian families being aware of what our young people are being taught is imperative. We can and must insist that the trustees and administrators make wise, Biblical decisions. We can encourage our young people in our homes and congregations to choose schools that are true to God and His Word. We can be mission-true!



JOIN THE 2025 MATCH AND CHALLENGE

A CALL TO RENEW AND RECONCILE

BY GEORGE A. BARLOW, JR. | WBS CHIEF ADVANCEMENT & CHURCH RELATIONS OFFICER



In the spirit of Ephesians 3:20 — “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think ...”, we continue in 2025 with bold faith and greater unity than ever before. **At World Bible School, we are inspired and energized by the generous commitment of several faithful families who have pledged a combined \$550,000 in Match and Challenge funds for this year.** Their gift is not only financial but also a challenge, a rallying cry to each of us to rise to the occasion and to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world in need.

Would you consider joining this challenge by giving today? Every gift, no matter the size, helps us meet this opportunity head-on and maximize the impact of these matching funds.

Working Together to Reach the World

Behind every campaign and Gospel tool stands a devoted team committed to advancing the mission:

- *Our Advancement Team, a group of six, works daily to cultivate partnerships that help expand the reach of WBS across the globe. They serve as the frontline bridge between your generosity and the life-changing work it fuels.*
- *Our Church Relations Team, five strong, focuses on equipping congregations to use WBS tools effectively. From Study Helpers to evangelism training, their work ensures congregations across the country are engaged and empowered.*
- *Our Estate Planning Team, a unique duo, faithfully splits its time between helping donors with Legacy Planning and contributing to our Advancement efforts. They help ensure that gifts made today and tomorrow continue to impact generations for Christ.*

Together, these teams reflect the unity and focus of WBS as we strive to renew the church and reconcile the lost.

Those who give \$1,000 or more will receive a free copy of "Unity in Christ".

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The Joy of Coming to the Table Together

BY GEORGE A. BARLOW, JR. | WBS CHIEF ADVANCEMENT & CHURCH RELATIONS OFFICER

There is something sacred about coming to the table. It's not just about sharing a meal—though there is joy in that, too. It's about what happens around the table, the laughter, the stories, the prayers, the fellowship. It's about being together as one body, united by purpose, hope and a shared mission.

This year, as we prepare to gather for our annual World Bible School Benefit Dinners, we do so with hearts full of anticipation. These dinners are more than events; they are moments of renewal. Our 2025 theme, "Renewing the Church and Reconciling the Lost," captures the very heartbeat of what God is doing through WBS.

Around these tables, we'll celebrate how God is using WBS to open doors across the globe. We'll share stories of transformation and of souls coming to Christ through our dedicated network of Study Helpers. We'll discuss our expanding reach into India and across Asia, where the hunger for the Gospel is immense and the opportunities to plant the Word are multiplying. We'll also highlight our WBS Priorities and areas of focus - areas that shape our outreach.

And yes, we'll enjoy a good meal. But more than that, we'll enjoy each other. Across the table, we'll see brothers and sisters from different walks of life and different congregations, united by a shared faith and a mission to make disciples of all nations.

We invite you to come and be part of the joy of togetherness at one of our upcoming dinners:

SEARCY BENEFIT DINNER — September 8, 2025, Harding University

NASHVILLE BENEFIT DINNER — October 9, 2025, Concord Road church of Christ

AUSTIN BENEFIT DINNER — November 6, 2025, Westside church of Christ

Bring your prayers, your questions, your joy and your appetite. Come ready to celebrate what God is doing and hear about what is next. Come ready to be inspired, encouraged and connected.

Because the joy isn't just in the gathering, but the joy is ultimately found in the togetherness. And that is something we never take for granted.

To learn more or to reserve your seat at the table, visit worldbibleschool.net/dinners2025.

RENEWING THE CHURCH RECONCILING THE LOST



JOIN US FOR
FOR WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL'S
ANNUAL **BENEFIT DINNER**





STUDY HELPER INSIGHT

TRAVENA ROGAN | SUPPORT ASSOCIATE



82-year-old Study Helper of 16 years, named Karen, called World Bible School recently and gave permission for us to share her testimony.

Karen was on a mission trip in Tanzania some years ago and enjoyed evangelizing the people there. What she loves the most about being a WBS Study Helper is the ease of it. At first, she thought, "I am a senior - this is going to be hard for me." But, Edie Connel, at WBS (before her passing) helped her so much to get acclimated to teaching online. It is much easier for Karen to move through the web as a Study Helper. She also encourages her retired friends to become Study Helpers and stresses the need for Postal Study Helpers as well. She shares with them the ease of doing it and often shows them on her phone, letting them know that it only takes a few minutes a day and it's really easy to get started. WBS still needs Study Helpers who teach Postal students, too.

I asked her what she would say to those Study Helpers who are discouraged? She said she doesn't worry or get discouraged when Students don't respond. She just keeps on adopting more Students. She said there are just so many souls out there, and you never know who will respond. She has had Students who have done nothing and then five years later they respond and start their lessons. Karen told us that you never know what a person is going through and how these lessons may make more sense to them over time.

I asked her what gets her past the waiting and sometimes never knowing the impact as a Study Helper? She said as Christians, we may never know our influence or even see it, but we must continue to sow God's seeds and encourage our brothers and sisters to join us.

Karen told me how one of her grandsons lived with her for a semester and he watched her working as a Study Helper. He wanted to know about WBS and what Karen was doing, so he decided to become a Student at sixteen. He had become a Christian and wanted to become a WBS Study Helper. Karen was his first Student, so he would know what it meant to be a Study Helper. WBS also sent him Students his age that wanted to know more about the Bible and God. Karen and her grandson had a weekly schedule of helping their Students every Sunday afternoon. She said he has fallen away now, but she prays for his return.

I then mentioned the Mathetis course being created to restore those who have fallen away. I suggested it to her to help her grandson. Karen told me that she knows a little about Mathetis, that it was good but probably more for young people. I told her it's for everybody and the next course is geared toward encouraging those who have fallen away to come back to our Lord. She agreed to consider Mathetis and mention it to her grandson.



LIBRARY

Check it out now at wbslibrary.org

Our Library contains regularly updated content that can be used to strengthen the brotherhood and teach those seeking the truth in multiple languages.

Recently released are two commentaries for the New Testament books Acts and Romans. These WBS Commentaries in Basic English provide aid in understanding the Bible for those involved in a deeper study of God's Word. These two works join the Matthew commentary and the upcoming commentary on Ephesians. Check back regularly to see new and updated content on the WBS Library!



The Big Picture of God

The Bible reveals the big picture of God's eternal kingdom in relation to His plan to add a new dimension, a dimension made up of people with the status of children of God. "



ACTION!

Check it out now at worldbibleschool.net/actionpodcasts

A weekly podcast, **One More Chapter**, explores the wisdom of ancient texts for equipping listeners for today's challenges. Wisdom from the Bible and great Bible scholars are examined.

Ep. 1 - The Nature of Wisdom

Ep. 2 - Wisdom Within vs Wisdom Without

Ep. 3 - Wisdom & Understanding Special Guest: Joseph Morris

Ep. 4 - Wisdom in the Face of Random Tragedy

Ep. 5 - Making Sense of a Universe Out of Balance

Ep. 6 - An Ancient Prophecy of an Eternal King

Ep. 7 - The Significance of the King's Scepter

Ep. 8 - The Law of God is Eternal

Ep. 9 - Communication is Vital

Ep. 10 - Citizenship in the Kingdom of God

Ep. 11 - Purpose Matters

Ep. 12 - Becoming a Christian, Obeying the Gospel

Ep. 13 - The Environment of the Kingdom of Christ

Ep. 14 - "For By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith" Special Guest: Brock Windham

Upcoming: 11 more episodes through the end of Oct., including a first season grand finale!



Episode 1 - Value #1: We Follow and Teach God's Inspired Word

Episode 2 - Value #2: We Serve the Church, the Church does not Serve Us with Special Guest Larry Nunley

Episode 3 - Value #3: We Strive to be Effective in Mission Special Report from Zambia

Upcoming: Episodes featuring reports from Uganda and Kenya!

Together in Mission is a monthly podcast for World Bible School's international community of volunteers. While focusing on mission principles, we will look at the latest WBS tools and initiatives. We will be joined by the men and women who make our WBS tools, the volunteers who use these tools in their congregational outreach and those courageous teams that make WBS happen in different countries around the globe!

MENTORING HEARTS & BUILDING LEGACIES



BY LORI BOYD | WBS BOARD MEMBER

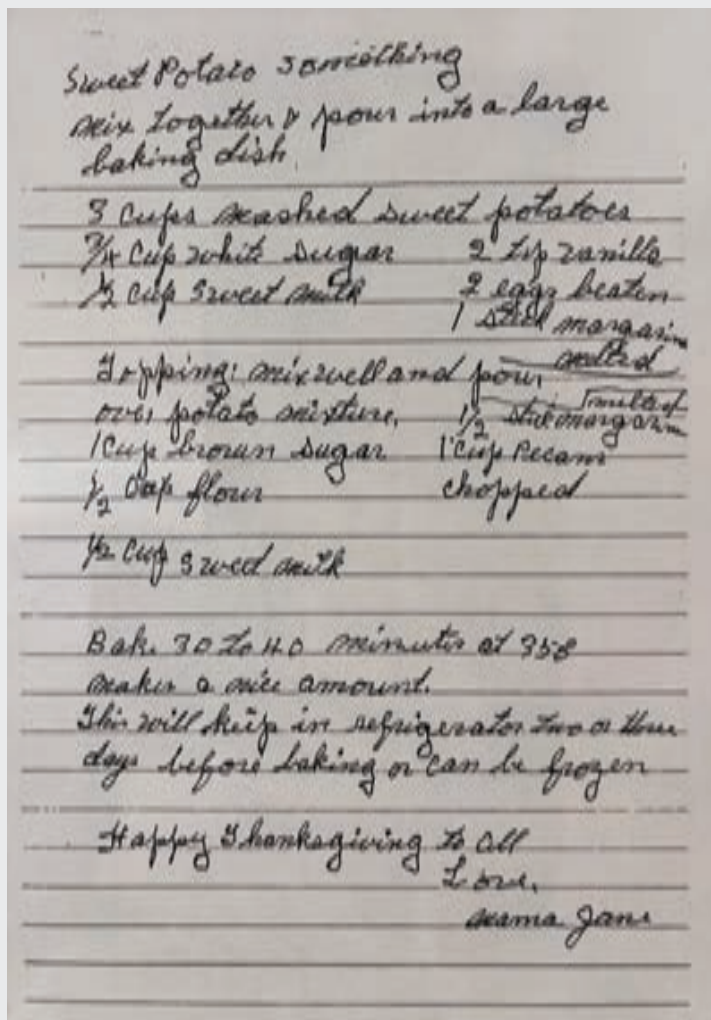
My great-grandmother, Mama Jane, made the best sweet potato casserole. Our family could count on her famous dish having a place somewhere on the table at Thanksgiving dinner and we looked forward to it every year. We all knew that no one could fix them up quite like Mama Jane, so when the holiday menu was being planned, her name was always written on the list next to “sweet potatoes.” Near the end of her life, Mama Jane wrote down the recipe for “Sweet Potato Something” and all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were given a copy. Her recipe hangs on my kitchen wall and every time I look at the shaky, slanting, hand-written lines, I think about our precious Mama Jane and—much more than her sweet potatoes—I remember her

deep love for family and her lifelong commitment to her faith. The values she established still resonate deeply as her legacy lives on in the second, third, fourth and fifth generations.

Faith is a precious thing. Picturing Mama Jane, at almost 101 years old carefully writing down ingredients and measurements, made me wonder, “If I were handed a pen and paper right now, would I be able to write down the recipe for faithful Christianity to hand down to my children, and my children’s children?” Of course, to create a foundation of faith in Jesus Christ and to instill the desire to pursue it and grow it, involves much more than a recipe card. It takes passion and purpose, consistent effort, and ceaseless prayer. It requires a battle plan and the help of fellow soldiers. In order to ensure a legacy of faith continues to future generations, we need all hands on deck. We need Christian mentors!

In Homer’s epic poem, “The Odyssey,” when Odysseus leaves to fight in the Trojan War, he places his royal household and his son, Telemachus, under the care of his trusted friend, Mentor. Mentor’s role is to provide advice and protection for Telemachus, but it is the goddess Athena, disguised as Mentor, who steps in and begins to directly influence, not only the growth and development of Telemachus, but ultimately the course of his life. Our English word “mentor” originates from this story. Today, we understand a mentor to be a wise and trusted guide; one who provides training, instruction, help, and advice to someone who may be younger or less experienced. We need mentors in the church. We need mentors to teach the truth and we need them to prepare others to teach the truth. We need men and women to step boldly and compassionately into this noble role and to understand the urgent need that exists for faithful, loving, kind and committed mentors.

The concept of mentorship can be found throughout the Bible, both directly and indirectly. Bible verses contain words like sharpen (Proverbs 27:17), commend (Psalm 145:4), proclaim (Psalm 71:18), teach (Colossians 3:16), encourage (1 Thessalonians 5:11), and train (Titus 2:3–5) to describe the responsibility God’s people have in mentoring their friends, children, young people, fellow Christians and future generations. There are also many





biblical accounts from Genesis to Revelation that beautifully illustrate the concept of mentorship in the lives of faithful men and women. A closer look at five of those accounts reveals five key elements of mentorship that we should take great care in emulating as we minister to each other.

1. As her mentor, Naomi empowered Ruth. She supported her in her request to glean in the field of Boaz. She sought security for Ruth's future. She advised her in her relationship with Boaz. She helped her in the upbringing of her son, Obed. In each of these ways, Naomi empowered Ruth, a young widow, to pursue love, peace and family (Ruth 2:2, 22; 3:1-4, 16-18; 4:16).
2. As his mentor, Eli educated Samuel. He taught him how to serve the Lord. He instructed Samuel in wearing a linen ephod. He contributed to his growth spiritually and socially. He directed him in hearing the words of the Lord and answering in obedience. In each of these ways, Eli educated Samuel to prepare him for carrying out his duties as priest, prophet and judge (1 Sam. 2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1-21).
3. As his mentor, Elijah equipped Elisha. He allowed Elisha to accompany him as he performed his duties in the kingdom. He prepared Elisha to take over his responsibilities as a prophet to Israel. He left his mantle behind for Elisha, signifying his calling as a spokesman for God. He ensured that Elisha had what he needed before being taken up to Heaven. In each of these ways, Elijah equipped Elisha, so that he was ready to confidently continue the Lord's work after he was gone (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6, 9-15).

4. As her mentor, Elizabeth encouraged Mary. She welcomed her with open arms at a difficult time in her life. She recognized how Mary had been blessed by God. She built her up with words of praise and commended her for her belief. She comforted her with words of affirmation. In each of these ways, Elizabeth encouraged Mary to stay strong and obedient and to continue to trust in God's plan for her life (Luke 1:39-45).
5. As a mentor, Jesus exemplified righteousness to His followers. He compassionately cared for people. He prayed and spent time alone with His Father. He lived according to God's will. He served others with humility. He went about doing good. He was tempted but never sinned. In each of these ways, and in so many more, Jesus exemplified righteousness, and He directed His followers to follow His example. Today, we have been given the same exhortation to "follow His steps" (Matthew 14:14; Luke 5:16; John 6:38; 12:26; Acts 10:38; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21).

Mentors empower, educate and equip others. They are encouragers. They serve as examples that can be followed with the assurance that their footsteps are following the footsteps of Jesus. Dear sisters, if you are desiring work in the Kingdom, if you are seeking opportunities to use your gifts and talents to the glory of God, let me urge you to create sincere connections and be a mentor! Invest time in building friendships with younger women and advise them and guide them in their walks of faith. They will be blessed by your wisdom, your help, your attention and your love. Mature sisters should be writing down the recipe for "What It Means to be a Christian" to hang on the walls of their hearts, creating a legacy of faith for future generations.



MENTORING TEACHERS

THE IMPORTANCE OF GODLY MENTORS

NOAH & ALLISON DAVIS | CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, PADUCAH, KY



A challenge that plagues many congregations is the lack of teachers. Regardless of whether it is teaching a

Bible class or leading a personal Bible study, there is a shortage of willing and capable teachers in the church. So, how do we fill this need?

There are very few skills we expect people to learn and figure out on their own. In almost any career, there is a period of training. Yet in the church, we sometimes overlook this crucial step in skill development and expect people to volunteer for something they have never done before.

Teachers must be taught, and one way that happens is through mentorship.

“A mentor is not someone who walks ahead of you and tells you how they did it. A mentor is someone who walks alongside you to guide you on how you can do it” (Anonymous). Mentoring teachers is more than simply asking someone to sign up to teach a class. Real mentoring requires a genuine investment of time and effort into the lives of others. Timothy did not automatically become a teacher when he became a Christian. He was guided there by people like Paul, Lois and Eunice. In mentoring His apostles, Jesus did not say, “Be fishers of men,” and expect that to happen overnight. Instead, Jesus said,

“Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). This is the language, attitude, and method of mentorship.

As with everything in Christianity, we look to Jesus for our perfect example. In mentoring His apostles, Jesus described how to teach, showed them how to teach, assisted them in practicing teaching, and empowered them to teach independently. It is such an effective model that many organizations use it today to implement effective skill transfer. The Boy Scouts of America created a helpful acronym to teach this same concept: EDGE (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide and Enable).

EXPLAIN

In Matthew 5, Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount. In verse 19, Jesus reminds His audience, including some of His apostles, that they need to practice and teach the very things He was teaching. Jesus was not only explaining the need to teach, but also what the apostles should teach. As we mentor teachers in the church today, we need to explain not only how to teach but also what to teach. Provide mentees with study books, commentaries and supplemental material that will help them interpret and apply Scripture. Take time to verbally explain the process of teaching and how you approach planning, outlining and teaching a class. Offer periodic teacher training sessions or courses for individuals interested in learning how to teach.

DEMONSTRATE

We cannot pick a single verse to illustrate how Jesus demonstrated teaching to His apostles. Read any of the Gospel accounts, and you will see that a large amount of the time that the apostles spent with Jesus was spent watching Him teach others. Mentees need effective teaching demonstrated to them. Let mentees simply sit in a class for a quarter and observe the teacher. Expose them to multiple teachers and various teaching styles. Study Scripture together and show them how you create a class outline from the text.

Demonstrate in private how you would go about teaching that to someone else.

GUIDE

In Matthew 10:5-42, Jesus begins to allow the apostles to practice teaching. However, He does not leave them to fend for themselves. Jesus tells them exactly what to say, exactly what to do, exactly what to expect, and exactly how to react to various scenarios. Jesus let the apostles start teaching on their own, but He didn't abandon them. He guided them and walked with them as they began to learn the skill of teaching. Explaining and demonstrating are not enough to develop a teacher. Future teachers need practice and mentors to guide them through their practice. For younger Christians, courses like Teach to Teach, offered through the Lads 2 Leaders program, provide guided mentorship in the classroom. For older Christians, allow them to co-teach with an experienced teacher and incrementally increase their involvement. After spending some time observing a teacher, the mentee can begin preparing activities or small-group discussions. Eventually, this should be followed by teaching additional class content until they are prepared to teach a class independently.

ENABLE

Finally, in Acts 1:8, right before His ascension, Jesus enables and empowers the apostles to do the

very thing He has been mentoring them all along to do: teach the world about Him. Jesus knew that He had to go back to the Father and that others would need to take up the responsibility of teaching the Good News. So, He laid out that mission to the apostles and, due to the years of mentorship, they were willing, capable and ready to teach on their own. This is what we want to happen in our congregations. It may take weeks, months or even years, but after we have mentored by explaining, demonstrating and guiding, we must be willing to enable and empower the mentee to teach independently. In this stage of mentorship, encouragement is key. You should certainly provide constructive feedback, but you also need to be their biggest cheerleader and allow them independence in teaching. Be involved in their classes and be available when they need your help, but let them be the teacher. After all, this was the goal all along.

Through mentoring, we can teach and guide others to become capable, willing and effective teachers themselves. It takes an investment of time and energy, and it will not fix your immediate need for teachers. However, if we follow Christ's model for mentoring, our congregations will eventually be equipped with an army of teachers that will bless His church for generations to come.





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TEACHING EFFICIENTLY



BY JEFF HUSSEY

ACTION! MEDIA & MARKETING MANAGER

In Paul's closing comments of the letter to the church at Colossae, he gives instruction that this letter should be read to the church at Laodicea and the letter from Laodicea also be read at Colossae (Colossians 4:16). Timothy and Titus, two of Paul's well-known charges, would also receive and distribute Paul's letters to various congregations. The apostles and early church leaders used pen and paper to more efficiently teach the early church.

Likewise, the creation and maintenance of the Roman road system, a new human development from the Roman Empire, greatly facilitated the spread of the Gospel, not only in speed but also breadth. This Roman system, developed to enhance trade and troop movement in the Empire, was critical to the spread of God's kingdom after the ascension of Jesus Christ. The apostles and early missionaries also used these roads to enable more efficient mentoring of the new congregations.

Today, our charge, which is stated in Matthew 28:19, is the same as that delivered specifically to the

apostles but also more generally to any follower of Christ: spread the Word to the furthest, most remote parts of the globe! During New Testament times, early church leaders and missionaries made good use of two man-made inventions to aid them in accomplishing their task: pen and parchment and the Roman road system. Although these technologies were employed without specific commands to do so—God made use of available tools to accomplish His will. Today, we have similar inventions created to accomplish secular tasks that we can and do use to spread the Gospel, edify and teach. We employ digital 'pen & paper' to quickly and easily create content that is instantaneously distributed and consumed around the world, made possible by the modern equivalent of the Roman road system: the Internet. Just as the early church leaders and missionaries used available tools and resources to be more efficient in teaching the early disciples and congregations, we do the same today.

At WBS, we have developed and deployed many of our resources



and tools to take advantage of powerful and efficient technologies:

WBS Library - a digital storehouse of regularly updated materials used to teach and strengthen the brotherhood as well as seekers.

Mathetis - an app that facilitates learning and teaching for individuals and groups.

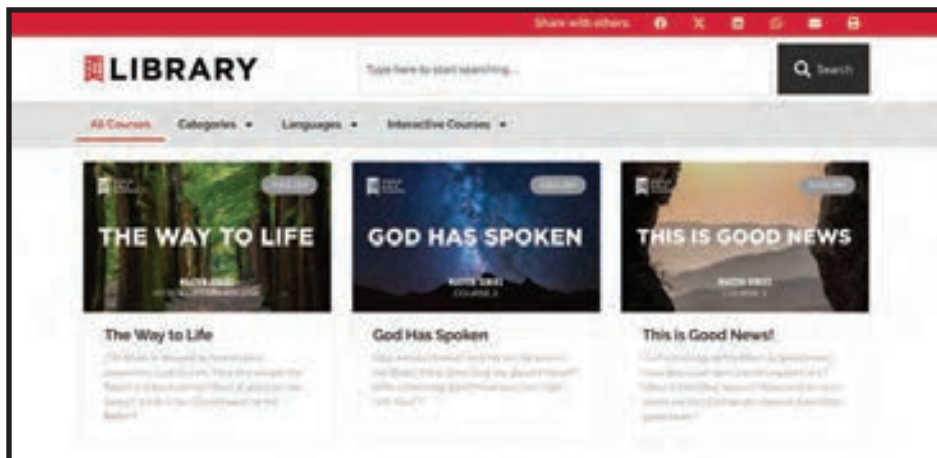
Ocean Bridge - a modern system replacing collapsing postal systems that converts print to digital, enabling us to more quickly deliver and grade lessons for our international Students.

Recently, we created and launched a new segment of outreach - the WBS Podcasts:

"One More Chapter" - a weekly series exploring the search for wisdom and why the Bible should be the source for wisdom.

"Together in Mission" - a monthly series reporting on WBS efforts and accomplishments around the world.

We continue to research and explore other possibilities to take advantage of these and other technologies. Just as was the case with parchment and roads, God has delivered tools and resources we can and should use to teach the lost about salvation through Jesus!



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WHAT'S IN ACTION!?



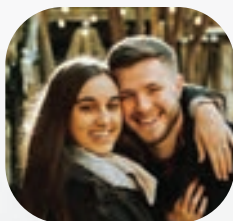
MISSION-TRUE MENTORING

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MENTORING HEARTS AND BUILDING LEGACIES

BY LORI BOYD, WBS BOARD MEMBER
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MENTORING TEACHERS

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