

Action!

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Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

TEAM AT WORK

By
John
Reese

Students of restoration histories are familiar with the term “congregational autonomy.” Some people might take that in its literal sense to mean “self-rule,” which is far from biblical. Properly understood, congregational autonomy refers to congregations not being controlled by other congregations or by earthly headquarters. Stated positively, the New Testament principle is that each member and each congregation submits to just one Head who reigns from His headquarters in heaven.

From that perspective, we are anything but independent. Our connection with Christ connects us to each other. “In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:5).

A healthy body does not act in a disjointed way. The foot (if it remains with Christ) cannot act as if it has nothing to do with the leg. The ear that feels undervalued cannot say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body.”



What happens if we reject our mutual connection in Christ? Then we risk rejecting Christ Himself since He arranged for His body to be connected, cohesive and functional. Teamwork is His choice, and therefore ours.

Each editorial this year has explored what it takes for churches in America (or anywhere) to grow. The power is in the Word. The motivation is love. Each member is a proclaiming priest. And each member works with other members as the Head directs. That teamwork is an essential part of any successful plan.

World Bible School illustrates the teamwork principle. No other religious group appears to have anything equivalent. What makes WBS unique? Sure, other groups offer literature and Internet lessons. But most are denominations with centralized models that limit the size of their budget and teaching staff. Churches of Christ use a different model. Congregations

and members offer themselves. They purchase teaching materials and postage. They support voluntary coordination efforts. Such grassroots volunteerism and generosity has virtually unlimited potential. Teachers and follow-up workers are everyday members, allowing for an ever-expandable workforce—a veritable “global network”!

This issue explores practical teamwork:

Some want to teach but lack funds, while some have more funds but less teaching time. Solution? Bring the two

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Humble Heroes
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Humble Heroes: Howard and Margaret Cox



Howard Cox, Lisa Marsh, Doug Trowbridge, Diane Dodds (Cox's daughter), Margaret Cox (seated), Patsie Trowbridge, Gary Marsh, Beth and John Reese at Mission Viejo, Cal., May 2011

Howard was born in 1925 in San Diego, California, and was raised there. After his 1944 graduation, the Navy drafted him for service in the South Pacific. On a 1945 visit to Los Angeles, he met Margaret (born in Fort Worth, 1926), a

Pepperdine student who attended the 64th and Normandie church. They have been in love since that day. In 1946 they married, and now have two wonderful children.

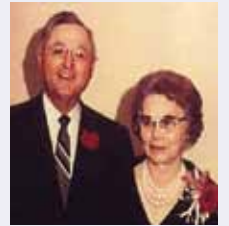
Around 1960 they moved to Redondo Beach and met Jimmie and Vivian Lovell at church. Howard began keeping Jimmie's books, and Margaret prepared mailing lists for his monthly *Action* paper. Jimmie encouraged them to start correspondence teaching at the Torrance church. Around 1970, he got Jolly Myers to send 100 referral names from the West Indies. Doris Pennick sent 100 African names. The local program grew to 55 teachers with 2,000 students.

Deeply impressed, Jimmie started World Bible School in 1973. While he promoted WBS through *Action*, the Coxes handled

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Myers-Cox

Jolly Myers, Sr., like his co-workers the Coxes and Lovells, was passionate about reaching souls. Jolly started as a ditch digger, then



Jolly and Lela Myers at his retirement party

worked his way up to chief engineer with Magnolia Pipeline Co. (40 years), but his lasting legacy is congregations he helped establish in the Caribbean. Another great legacy is the Fund he established to help seniors. They had the time and desire for Gospel teaching, but struggled to afford WBS materials. For years the Jolly Myers Fund has provided a solution. From the beginning, Howard and Margaret Cox of West Coast WBS have been faithful stewards, both applying and nurturing their friend's Fund. It has steadily grown through the generosity of many, most notably Jolly and Lela's daughter, Betty Terrill. Some Christians have funds but less teaching time, while others want to teach but lack funds. What could be more fitting than for the two to join forces? Through the years, how many souls owe their salvation to this teamwork?

Most importantly, how many more will the Fund empower to share the Gospel?

Stories from Team U.S.A.

God works ahead of us, often through people and means unknown to us. As Jesus said, "Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor" (John 4:38). Notice how Mary Joy's heart had been prepared already. The brief Introductory Lesson served as a trigger to her response. How has the Lord prepared people you meet? We find out only by taking the initiative with them. Notice also how Ellen's teaching benefited from various resources—that is the value of teamwork!

She Is So Excited!

By Ellen Corlee
Southside church of Christ, Fort Worth, Texas

August, 2010 Mary Joy (46) of Brushton, NY, requested World Bible School lessons. I believe she found WBS on the Internet.

December, 2010 Her request eventually came to me, and she received the Introductory Lesson.

January 1, 2011 She wrote asking me about baptism. She had been baptized as an infant but had realized for some time that she needed baptism by immersion. I sent her an old copy of *Nichol's Pocket Encyclopedia*

and a section from "Our Search for God" used by our Jail Ministry.

February 12, 2011 Mary Joy wrote that she had never craved the "Word" so much and could not wait to receive her next lesson.

February 26, 2011 She wrote me that she had contacted a local pastor about being baptized, but she got sick and never called the pastor back. She asked if I would mind telling [her] what church I attended. I sent her information on churches of Christ and a paper listing NY television stations showing *In Search of the Lord's Way*.

March, 2011 No communications. I worried that I had been too pushy.

April 25, 2011 Mary Joy wrote saying she had been ill. I was so excited that I hadn't

lost her after all! Mary Joy had found the small church in Massena, NY, and had visited on a Sunday. My information helped her know what to expect.

May 2, 2011 Mary Joy wrote that she was baptized that evening. Her brother, sister-in-law and about eight members witnessed her baptism. She was so excited to meet wonderful church members. They have started to include her in all of their activities. She thanks me in every letter she writes. She feels that God sent me to her. I am the thankful one!

Ongoing I will always keep in contact with my new Christian friend. She is so excited! She has now completed all of her WBS lessons.





Teacher Assistance Fund

How many will find the Savior in the future? With this in mind, Howard, Margaret and Betty have taken steps to ensure the Fund's growth and perpetuity. With the Cox's West Coast WBS base winding down operations, they have passed the Fund—now nearly \$50,000—to WBS in Cedar Park, Texas.

John Reese, WBS President, sought to honor both the Myers and the Cox families. The first established the Fund. The second administered it well and provided leadership that has blessed WBS immeasurably. It is with great pleasure that WBS honors these founding families with the Fund's new name: the **Myers-Cox Teacher Assistance Fund**.

The Fund was established when WBS used only postal methods. Since then WBS has added email and Web Bible teaching. These new means also involve teachers who may not be able to afford the nominal cost-sharing fee. Other Internet teachers live in under-developed countries where logistics



Reese receives another Fund check from Betty (Myers) Terrill.

hinder on-line payments. These are growing needs which now have a solution. Thus, the Myers-Cox Teacher Assistance Fund



Margaret and Howard Cox (right) transfer Fund to WBS President John Reese

continues its original intent on behalf of fixed-income seniors and extends that purpose to meet the needs of electronic teaching.

The retirement this year of the Coxes marks the ideal occasion to honor them. All associated with WBS owe an inestimable debt to the Coxes. Their teamwork with Jimmie Lovell and others laid the foundation for WBS, and for 50 years they have built steadily upon it. Howard and Margaret represent so many of you: quiet servants whose self-sacrifice gets the job done without fanfare. No one deserves greater honor. You can honor them, too. Your gift can help ensure the growth, constant use and perpetuity of the Myers-Cox Teacher Assistance Fund. No gift is too small. No gift is too big. Let's rally as many generous givers as possible, and let our gifts send these beloved stewards a resounding message of affirmation and appreciation!



Giving to the Fund

...helps others teach—and many more know Jesus. Designate gifts to "the Myers-Cox Fund."

Applying to the Fund

If you are, in good conscience, financially unable to fully fund your WBS teaching efforts, you can apply for assistance from the Fund for:

- the purchase (not shipping) of printed WBS lessons
- the monthly shared cost subscription (\$10/mo) for email and Web teaching
- printed lessons for mission efforts seeking to enroll WBS students
- The Fund does not pay "cash" but will waive or offset internal costs to WBS.

For application details, request the Myers-Cox Fund Policies from info@worldbibleschool.net.

Action!

Editor: John Reese

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“The Truth Shall Make You Free”

By a Special Guest Contributor

Those powerful words of Jesus in John 8:32 have repeatedly encouraged me. I’ve seen them when randomly opening my Bible...scrawled on prison walls...taught to me in my World Bible School lessons...I’ve memorized them. And, I’ve seen them fulfilled...in me.

My name is Melissa. I am on parole now, having recently completed serving a prison sentence. On the day of my sentencing several years ago, I was confident. Even though in my life I had never paid any attention to the Bible, or God, or Jesus, I had run across this “truth” quote somewhere: “the truth will make you free.” *Yeah, God will take care of me, He’ll make me free.*

Back in my cell, I cried more and more. As I regained my composure, I thought of the Bible I had shoved far away under my bunk. Still angry at God, I opened it randomly. *John 8:32*. It was that verse I had seen several times before. In just the moment it took to read it, I felt a sense of peace come over me. Despite my disappointment, I determined to let God continue His work in me. If He had a purpose for me in prison, I wanted to find out what it was.

Well, when that overcast fall day came, I was far from “set free”. I was sentenced to four years. *Four years!* I was humiliated. All I could think was how my mother will be devastated. My husband will never stick with me through this. My life is over! *God, how could you do this to me?* I raged as I was escorted back to my cell.

The very next day, I received an unexpected clergy visit. On the other side of the window was this sweet man. Wallace Lentz kindly informed me that I had signed up for World Bible School lessons that he and his church, the Brentwood Oaks church of



Christ, provided. *Brentwood Oaks? That’s the church right down the street from my old house!* Mr. Lentz smiled and prayed for me. He assured me that the first WBS lesson was coming and it would be a blessing.

With my WBS lessons and Bible in hand, my knowledge and faith began to grow. I developed a relationship with God, and it was growing. I even felt a distant sense of fellowship with the Christians at the Brentwood Oaks congregation—though I couldn’t actually worship with them.

That was then. Later, one month after I was released, I responded to what I had learned from my study: I was immersed into Jesus Christ. The moment the water touched me, I began sobbing tears of joy! *God really is saving me!* And I can tell you this, too. On a Sunday morning this summer, I placed membership at a welcoming, vibrant local church. Now I’m a gracious member of the Brentwood Oaks church of Christ!

My story has far more to it. But what I want people to know is that I was looking to anything and everything to fill a huge hole I had in my life. But that hole was meant for *God*. WBS and my WBS study helper helped me come to know God for the first time. With Him, I am now complete. And with Him, I’m forgiven...and the truth has set me free!

“WBS and my study helper helped me to know God for the first time. With Him, I am now complete.”

Team at Work (from page 1)

together through the Myers-Cox Teacher Assistance Fund! (Page 3)

The church in Lisbon wants to impact Portugal’s former colony Angola. Solution? Team up with Brazil and North America! See page 7.

A teacher’s health fails. Solution? See page 6.

WBS students need follow up and training. Solution? See pages 2, 6 and 7.

Two ministries seek greater effectiveness. Solution? Join hands like WBS and WR (page 7)—and in next month’s issue, WBS and WCB!

Correspondence outreach needs improvements. Solution? Your WBS national workshop! See page 8.

This is the Lord’s body at work, and He crowns such teamwork with astounding growth!



Teamwork (from page 6)

an international search for qualified administrators, faculty, trustees and staff. Contact irahill@SBCGlobal.net.

Editor’s Note: Ira’s observations reflect our own. WBS is often the main source of feeding graduates into our colleges and ministry training schools in Africa. If you have promising students, please consider referring them to ACC and other schools—whether by location or by extension—related to the church.



Humble Heroes (from page 2)

national details. In 1984, after 37 years at Rockwell/Boeing, Howard retired early to help Jimmie more. Within months Jimmie died. Both Coxes continued as full-time workers with WBS, attending lectureships, getting churches and individuals involved, arranging for supplies and postage, administering funds and more. During 50 years of service with Jimmie and WBS, they have lived on their own limited means and never received a salary.

Howard and Margaret, we salute you! We thank you! We plan to honor you most by carrying your work forward!



Tips for Teachers!

Passing the Baton

Zelpha Bearden recently wrote: I need for you to find new teachers for my husband, Roy and me. I hate so to give up my friends in Africa, but I am 93 years old and Roy died in January after 76 years of marriage. My health has failed since his passing and I do not feel capable of continuing this important work.

I have over 10,000 World Bible School students in Africa, and so many of them have become good friends. I have one student,



Zelpha and Roy Bearden cause us to think about transitions.

a preacher, that has visited me here in the States. He is from Kenya. I try to keep track of all my baptized students by sending them special letters occasionally. They all report they are still faithful except I have lost one in death. I have been a WBS teacher since 1991, and it has been one of the special blessings of my life.

John Reese replied: What an amazing time God gave to you and your husband—over seven decades! Also, congratulations on your tenure as a teacher. The time comes to each of us when we must let go of cherished roles. Thanks for the grace with which you are approaching this time in your life. Thank you for giving so many countless hours to sharing the Good News. The Lord Himself is your great reward, and heaven will be where you fully enjoy the pleasure of knowing the value of your work for so many. All this has



been by His power, and He also will see you through whatever may lie ahead for you. I have passed your message on to Sherri, and she will guide you through the process of passing on your students.

Editor's note: Eventually, you may face the same transition as Zelpha. Please follow her example in making sure your students continue their studies. Often that means you prepare another teacher locally to take them. This is best because your personal love and your experience with your students can guide the process. Some may need to contact WBS in Cedar Park, as Zelpha did. Sherri Hays always has reliable teachers standing by to continue with your students, no matter where they are in their WBS studies. Sherri can be contacted at 512-345-8190, ext. 114.



More on BRM

If you use a Business Reply Mail (BRM) envelope please send it to the right country. When workers from WBS' home office in Cedar Park visited Malawi, Post Office officials there told them exactly where WBS had BRM services: Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone. They knew

because Malawi's Post Office had received BRM envelopes for all three nations (even before WBS had BRM in Malawi). We apologized on behalf of the geographically challenged among us. No country will accept as local mail a letter with a foreign permit or stamp. Please use a BRM service only for its specified country.

The CODE NUMBER on the BRM and the lesson sent back to the WBS teacher

should be the same. Please ask the student to return a lesson's answers in the BRM envelope that came with that lesson. Obviously, exceptions can occur. For example, if a student loses his envelope, he should not hesitate to return his answers with those of a friend. But following the general rule—always prominently displaying your WBS code number—will save our sorters much time and effort.



Teamwork at ACC in Swaziland

By Ira Hill

We have found that WBS courses not only teach the Good News, they also stimulate greater vision and desire to become an effective church leader through more rigorous studies. At African Christian College in Swaziland, we find that almost all of our incoming students



Ira Hill is the Chairman of the Board of the African Christian College.

are graduates of the WBS curriculum.

In discussions, it becomes clear that their desire to serve the Kingdom was first stimulated by WBS materials. WBS teachers ask them, "What do you think?" or "What does this Scripture teach you?" rather than the "repeat after me" type of education in most public schools. ACC currently provides a BA in Theology, Leadership and Ministry as the first of three ministry-to-the-community degrees under development. The other two will be a BA in Comprehensive Leadership and a BA in Counseling. Both are designed to

lay a foundation for meaningful employment after graduation, supporting their evangelism or other ministries.

Those who have been intellectually and spiritually impacted by WBS have a positive vision for Africa's future. Many of them prove fine candidates for ACC's full college program. At present ACC is also conducting

continued on page 5





Team Angola

By John Reese

The African nation of Angola experienced untold suffering during 41 years of wars. Our son Danny was born in South Africa and grew up there during its part in the Angolan war. Later, as an adult, he asked me about how to target a new place for evangelism. Though I don't remember the conversation well, he says that I replied in effect, "Look for a country that has been through war. After it emerges, the people are ready for Good News."

Danny's friend Nathan Holland was thinking along similar lines. Angola's devastating civil war ended in 2002, and Danny and Nathan started to assemble a mission team. On July 9, 2011 the team—the first American team for churches of Christ—arrived in

Luanda, the capital of Angola, on their way to their new homes in Huambo.

Almost a decade of arduous preparations has required exceptional determination and teamwork. Many congregations and donors participated to back the team. Invitations and assistance with the government came from within Angola. While the team learned Portuguese in Lisbon, their American partners assisted in the ten month process to obtain visas at the Angolan consulate in Houston.

Teamwork will shape the future also. The Lisbon church of Christ adopted the team. Lisbon church leaders are pressing forward with plans to use Portuguese World Bible School to supplement their mission in Angola. The source for Portuguese WBS courses is Daniel Neimar at the



Team Angola celebrates the arrival of visas. Adults from left: Nathan Holland, Rusty Campbell, Teague and Robert Meyer, Jordan Yarbrough, Danny and Katie Reese, Laura Campbell

Eldorado church in Brazil. His partner is Charlie Huffman of Lubbock, Texas. The Lisbon church has not asked for help, but I feel sure that partners in South America and North America would be welcomed as Lisbon seeks to fulfill the great potential for correspondence Bible teaching in this virgin field.



Tag Team in Kenya (and Beyond)

By Ken Bolden

1971 A Kenyan named Nicholas Onsomu worked for the Tanzania Wildlife Service in the forests of Mount Meru. Missionary Ron Cotton converted him to Christ.

1972 The Tanzanian Government expelled all Kenyans. Nicholas and his Tanzanian bride returned to his Kisii homeland high in the Western Highlands of Kenya.

1973 A new mission team to the Kisii and Luo met Nicholas.

1978 Ken Bolden arrived in Kisii and became friends with Nicholas and his family. Nicholas begged Ken to bring more help, especially in follow-up for World Bible School students.

1980 Missionaries Roy and Nora Lane began 12 years of partnership with Nicholas in church planting, leadership training and WBS follow-up. By the time Roy left, he had trained 12 committed men, almost all converted through WBS. They supported themselves as businessmen and farmers.

2005 Ken Bolden, then Director of World Ra-



Veteran missionaries Harry Robert Fox and Ken Bolden get together at a WBS Breakfast

dio, traveled to East Africa with Ron Pottberg, a Vice-President of WBS. Nicholas Onsomu and his coworkers met their bus in Kisii Town. Meetings the next day produced a surprise. Ken sat with four Kisii representatives and discussed their World Radio plans for the Kisii language, *ekaGusii*.

After that, Ron conducted the WBS meeting. The participants turned out to be the same men. Our discovery: "Your guys are our guys.... World Radio and World Bible School national workers are the same people!" Their journey found the same convergence throughout East Africa, and reflects the pattern in West Africa and Southern Africa.

2011 This fruitful partnership continues today as evidenced in recent World Radio News. Daniel Djonga in **Chad**: "Thanks to the broadcasts, we recorded 308 EBM (WBS) students and 11 baptisms." Isaac Daye: "[From three mission trips] we registered 92 baptisms, most of them in **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**; over 16,000 were enrolled for WBS." Grace Nyanga

in **Uganda**: "A dynamic WBS student has been instrumental in planting the church in Arua, Nebbi, Koboko, Masinda, Paidha and Buliisa." Rodolfo Casas in **Peru**: "The radio program is giving unexpected results with people visiting the church, requesting Bible correspondence courses and calls." Habtu Zemech in **Ethiopia**: "[We are] following up with WBS seminars." Velaphi Mhlangeni in **Zimbabwe**: "We conclude each program explaining the steps which lead one to become a child of God and offer the free WBS courses."



World Bible School also partners with **World Christian Broadcasting**, which uses shortwave transmissions to blanket vast populations in Russia, China and the Pacific Rim. WCB is about to add broadcasting from Madagascar to cover Africa, the Islamic world and India, reaching even to South and Central America. WBS is teaming up with WCB to help handle responses. Look for more on this historic breakthrough for world evangelism in the next issue of *Action!*



At Last... A National WBS Workshop!



Mark your calendar: October 19-22, 2011

Legacy church of Christ, 8801 Mid Cities Blvd., N. Richland Hills (D/FW), Texas 76182

The Global Missions Conference (GMC) is a triennial, comprehensive missions gathering of churches of Christ to advance domestic and global outreach. For 2011, GMC is dedicating valuable time to involvement ministries. **World Bible School** has two tracks on **Saturday, October 22:**

10:30-11:30 A.M. "Think Tank to Improve WBS Interactive Evangelism Studies"

1:30-2:30 P.M. "WBS In-Service Training for Cutting Edge Evangelism"

WBS Coordinators, WBS Teachers and Friends, bring your experiences and vital insights to the "Think Tank." Then discover the latest initiatives, tools, solutions and plans. Bring your church and missions leaders, and your members. Take advantage of the entire GMC! Register at www.globalmissionsconference.org. For WBS information write info@worldbibleschool.net.

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