

Action!



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

Volume 77, Number 1

January 2013

nowstalgia



John Reese

2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the name “World Bible School,” and this year is packed with special events. For us, celebration means three things:

Celebrating the past: We thank God for those who led us to this point. Their ground-breaking progress makes our present work so much more fruitful. “Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor” (John 4:38). This year’s *Action!* recalls historical highlights. What a heritage! What an example! What a solid foundation for progress that continues!

Celebrating the present: History means little unless we let the past impact the present. “Nostalgia” becomes “NOWstalgia.” God works NOW in amazing ways. Records are breaking NOW. For example, as of November (when we prepare *Action!*) 603,201 new postal students enrolled through WBS’ Cedar Park office in 2012. November alone saw 76,322 enrolled at Cedar Park, one of many places where students apply. We thank God by giving ourselves to Him right NOW in praise, service and effective outreach.

Celebrating the prospect: We thank God for all that He plans to do. His open doors are such, and His new WBS tools are such, that we are convinced He has only just begun. Yes, our teachers number over 8,000. But many more should be recruited from an initial prospect pool of 500,000 U.S. members. Moreover, we can recruit internationally NOW that members worldwide can become teachers through WBS Internet. Further, many more will become teachers as WBS adds new languages. (See “NOW Spanish Internet,” page 8.) More teachers will allow WBS to reach many more students in nations from A to Z, beginning in Africa, Asia and the Americas. God’s power does more than all we ask or imagine, and He will continue to work powerfully in and through His people (Ephesians 1:18-23; 3:16-21).

This banner year, make sure *Action!* comes to your home so that you can follow events. Do something special to honor your WBS teachers. Give generously to help WBS reach millions more. Become an Internet teacher (worldbibleschool.net). Promote the new tools. WBS is all about personal involvement, and that fact shapes how we celebrate. Get involved! Come celebrate with us!

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1973-2013

Vietnam **now**

Editor's note: *Our World Bible School travels cover the world. In place after place, WBS stories come our way unsolicited. Our representative Rick Shur was busy setting up his WBS display when Melanie told her story (see "Divine Intervention"). I was preparing for a missions weekend at West-Ark church in Fort Smith, Ark., when my liaison there, Jerry Canfield, happened to receive two emails (see "Younger Than My Birthday")*

In a later email, the same reporter in Vietnam wrote, "May God bless us and helps us to behave like the Samaritan and not like the other nine who were ungrateful to God. There is a Vietnamese saying that goes like this: 'When one eats a fruit, he should remember the man who planted the tree'." How appropriate that saying is for the 40th anniversary of WBS!

and "Vietnam Now"). Recognizing the stories as "very timely," Jerry forwarded them, saying, "The [Vietnam] story... demonstrates that God has a plan and if we 'get out there' He is able to use us; that our plan to teach the Gospel and develop a congregation in Ho Chi Min City will have benefits we did not anticipate; and that WBS (even with an unknown person in another part of the world and in a large city with little influence for Christ) can be used by God to save a soul and any of us can use WBS from our own home; and that there are people who look for truth."

This 40th anniversary, as we reflect on WBS' journey, that's NOWstalgia, not nostalgia. Forty years of momentum are overflowing NOW. Seeds are yielding fruit NOW. Advances are futuristic NOW (see this issue's Internet news). And the spontaneous stories just keep coming....

By a reporter in Ho Chi Min City
(formerly Saigon)

Tom recently passed on to me the name of a 35 year old man [let's call him Tan] who had just completed World Bible School courses through the



Baptism in Vietnam

Internet. Tan, who speaks English well, wanted to meet me at our church.

I talked to the church leaders about this man. They all said, "Don't let him know our address. We don't know him and we must be careful. Some undercover agents also take Bible classes by Internet."

But I wanted to meet him. So I asked a leader how to recognize an undercover agent. He replied, "It's very difficult. But, if you can go to his place, it will be easier. These Vietnamese officials display a diploma and also a group photo in their uniforms in their living room."

So I decided to change the tactic. I called Tan and told him that I would be in

continued on page 5

Divine Intervention

Editor's note: *Rick Shur was at a booth at the Spiritual Growth Workshop in Orlando, Fla. In the next booth was a lady selling music CDs. She asked Rick, "Who are you working with?" Rick replied, "World Bible School." She exclaimed, "World Bible School! That's how I became a Christian in Jamaica!" Here is her story....*



By Melanie M. Williams
My Grandmother and Aunt, with whom I grew up, were regular church-goers who believed strongly in the

"established denominations"—in particular the Anglicans or Church of England. We had no choice but to go to Sunday school and church, even if the adults didn't attend.

In my third year of High School, a

classmate boldly questioned my religious beliefs. He proclaimed that only his church ("Jesus only" Pentecostals) would make it to heaven. I tried to counter his argument, but could not. He knew, and I knew, the unscriptural beginnings of the Church of England.

After high school, I relocated to the city to attend college. True to my upbringing, I found the nearest Anglican Church and worshipped with them only once. I just didn't feel right!

I was overcome with guilt each Sunday and recognized that I needed to get some answers. I needed to study the Bible. I needed to be in church on Sundays!

Divine intervention led me to pick up our local evening newspaper *The Star*. In *The Star* was an advertisement captioned, "Would you like to study the Bible?" Then the word **FREE** got my



Rick Shur and Melanie Williams at Orlando's Spiritual Growth Workshop

attention! I immediately responded to the advertisement, and was pleased to get my first lesson in the mail. It was from the World Bible School in Cedar Park, Texas, in the U.S.

After a few lessons, I wrote them a letter demanding answers and proof—proof of the one true church. Sometime later, I was contacted by a member of one of the local congregations, the Patrick City church of

continued on page 7



Above & Beyond

by Kevin Rhodes

How do you decide where to give?

What a joy to visit with people who want to see the Great Commission fulfilled! *And that's my job!* All of us do that here at World Bible School. What a blessing.

I was recently joined by John Reese and his wife, Beth, to visit a couple who had been long-time supporters of WBS. But their latest gift was exceptional: they had sold some real estate and given a portion of the proceeds to WBS. During our visit, we posed the inevitable question: "Why did you decide on WBS as the beneficiary of such a significant gift?" From their reply, it was obvious that the decision process had involved both careful prayer and careful analysis. There was almost a scientific precision to it—not surprising given the head of household's engineering career! The answer to us was, in essence, this:

We had narrowed the list down to three favorite ministries that we've supported for a number of years. We thought about dividing our gift three ways, an equal portion to each ministry.

Then we carefully considered it.

One ministry is very popular, but the audience it benefits is mainly members of the church. We value outreach to new people, so we took it off the list. A second ministry was indeed giving people access to the Christian message. But it was an indirect approach, and it was hard to know

With WBS, we believed our gift would make the greatest impact.

if the ministry was truly effective. So we took that one off the list. That left World Bible School. We felt good about WBS because it involves direct teaching of the Gospel and it involves everyday Christians in the process. And, of course, everyone knows



that WBS produces profound results.

Ultimately, our decision was easy: with WBS, we believed our gift would make the greatest impact by sharing the Good News of Jesus.

What a great message to like-minded Christians! During 2013, as you consider how your charitable giving can truly make an impact, consider partnering with WBS with generous giving. Your gift—large or small—will ensure that truth-seekers will learn the Truth of the Bible and receive its blessings for themselves.



Action!

Editor: John Reese

Action! (ISSN 8750-1333) USPS 004380 is published bi-monthly by the non-profit ministry of World Bible School. WBS is a worldwide network of Christians teaching the Gospel with printed and Web-based Bible lessons.



Teaching the Word. Reaching the World!

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Lessons: 877-393-0211 • info@worldbibleschool.net

Ministry site: www.worldbibleschool.net

Student site: www.worldbibleschool.org

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Action!**

World Bible School, P.O. Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630

Periodicals Postage Paid at Cedar Park, Texas,
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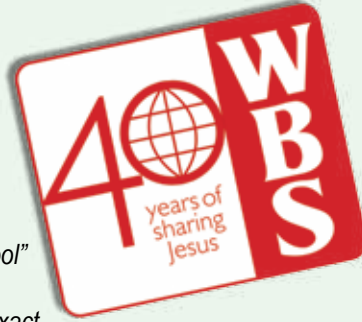
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Vietnam now (from page 2)

Celebrating 40 Years Plus



Editor's note: 2013 Marks the 40th year since the name "World Bible School" appeared in Jimmie Lovell's periodical *Action*. The year of that naming is an exact marker for an anniversary. It is also modest. For the method—many members using Bible correspondence worldwide—had been active long before its special designation in 1973. What Jimmie wrote in 1973 demonstrates the long history and the fervent passion leading up to the official naming of World Bible School.

Jimmie Lovell in *Action*, January-February, 1973:

I made up the first Bible correspondence course I ever saw—47 years ago in Denver, Col. The idea has been heavy upon my heart ever since. It has proved to be the most efficient, economical and fruitful tool

Every person has more right to hear the Gospel once than for another to hear it twice.

of the foreign worker in reaching souls. I would estimate that among our some 300 evangelists in other nations, about half of them specialize in this means of reaching the unsaved. It has been a long, patient and difficult procedure but the reward in souls is numbered by the thousands who have been converted. The great majority of churches started in other lands is a

result of Bible correspondence work. Let me give you one example.

During the last World War, Gordon Turner was preaching for the Lawrence Avenue church in Nashville. He had prepared a Bible course for those in the military but needed help in printing. We had raised some money to start a youth magazine but the government would not allocate us the paper, so we decided to join Gordon in his work. Gordon Turner also sent the Bible lessons to a Nigerian, C.A.O. Essien. Before any worker from America ever set foot in Nigeria, this great man had baptized over 10,000 and started many churches—we have some 75,000 members there today all due to the "power that worketh within us." Who knows what you can do if you try?

A large majority of the churches in other lands have been started by Bible correspondence. We estimate that we have enrolled over 450,000 persons, and far more non-Christian persons are being converted by a handful of missionaries than is done by our some 10,000 preachers here at home with all of our beautiful buildings, best brains in elderships and teaching talent in our Sunday school rooms. I want every one of you to think soberly about this fact and keep the whole idea squarely before the church where you worship. Unless we here at home go to the lost instead of expecting them to come to us, their blood will be on our hands, and if this is not the truth, the Bible is not truth.

I could write so much on what we are doing in so many nations and the whole thing is growing so fast that we are unable to supply the lessons. It is so beyond anything we ever experienced that we cannot even adjust our thinking on it.



his area. Could I drop by and meet him at his place? He hesitated, but answered, "OK" and gave me his address. I was still suspicious. So the next morning I traveled 45 minutes across HCM City and arrived in his vicinity early.

I asked his neighbor, "I need to meet the official whose name is Tan; is he home yet?" I just wanted to see the reaction.

The neighbor said, "You are mistaken. This man is not an official. I know him well. He is not at home yet." I was finally reassured.

I went to a coffee shop nearby and waited. Later, I showed up at his place. He welcomed me into his home. As we talked, he revealed to me that his denomination and his parents had excluded him since 2007 because he dared to question the priest. He wanted to look for the church that teaches the truth. He finally found a protestant church, but they didn't teach according to the Bible. He left that church and decided not to go to any church.

He read the Bible every day and prayed that God would guide him to the truth. He sought the true church through the Internet every day. There were many denominations, but he was not pleased with them either. On June 2012, he finally met World Bible School online. Tom's friend taught him via Internet, then referred him to Tom, who referred him to me. Tan and I discussed for three hours without noticing the time passing. When I invited him to church, he first asked me a list of questions. My answers were Bible-based, which satisfied him.

He explained, "I made mistakes twice. I don't want to make a mistake again. I am so glad to meet you. I prayed to God for years and years. I am happy now to find a church that teaches according to the Bible. I will see you on Sunday."

Tan came to our assembly despite torrential rain. He said, "[My] shoes and shirt are wet, but I feel so warm in the house of the Lord."

Later, after the crowd was dismissed, Tan came to me and said, "I wasn't baptized correctly before. My conscience bothers me so much. I need to be re-baptized. Is it possible?" After further discussions, he was baptized into Christ.

He read the Bible every day and prayed that God would guide him to the truth. He sought the true church through the Internet every day.



Tips for Teachers!

To Get New WBS Postal Students

Are you looking to augment your existing WBS postal teaching program with new postal students, perhaps from a country you haven't taught in before? Here's a new and easy way to find them. Every day people from many different countries sign up on the World Bible School website to be WBS postal students. Any postal teacher who has registered on the website can find and claim these postal students.

To register, go to www.worldbibleschool.net/teachers and follow the instructions. If you plan to use the website only to find and claim postal students, please tell us that in the «Comments» field on the registration form. After you register, we will send you an email with instructions on how to log in to the teaching website, www.worldbibleschool.org. At this site, go to the "Student Board" tab. Click on "postal students" at the top of the list to see current postal students waiting for a teacher (you) to claim and teach them. These students found us by Internet but asked for paper lessons. If you claim them, please be prompt in sending lessons to them.



New WBS Teaching **now**

By D.J. Smith, a WBS Internet Coordinator
Being a WBS teacher is amazing! I've got a ton of students and absolutely love working with each of them. I'm thrilled to actually feel like a solid tool for the Lord!

It's so easy. I first thought I'd take five Web students. But it grew to 10, then 20, and now it's over 80 students—literally all over the world. It's borderline addicting! But no one should have to wait to hear the Good News and I gladly teach them with WBS.

Not all students keep going like I would hope, but a lot of them do. And I'm developing very interesting relationships with my WBS students.

- One is a Muslim named Nasr who at one point I thought was trying to convert me! I'm getting some good resources for talking to a Muslim, so I'm really learning something new.
- An American shared that he is a recovering alcoholic and that he struggles

being motivated to read the Bible and get closer to God.

- I had an out-of-work farmer in Norway with no Bible who asked for one. I know I can work with WBS to get him one of his own.
- An African told me how he's now out of a religious cult and how he had to flee his country because they wanted to kill him.

I get messages all the time from men and women all over the world thanking me for taking a spiritual interest in them.

The magnitude of this is HUGE. WBS

can significantly impact the world for the Lord. If I—a 39-year-old, fully employed husband and father—can teach over 80 students, think of what 100 more people at my church [Concord Road church, Nashville] can do.

I'm so humbled and honored to use WBS as a tool to reach others. My other deacon friend and I can't wait to get our church on board in full force.



D.J. and Kathy Smith and Katie and Brian Cooper,
WBS coordinators at Concord

The WBS Postal Service Center in Malawi has a new address. For your students in Malawi, please use the following return address in the red Study Helper box starting immediately:

TEACHER NAME AND CODE NUMBER
WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL
PRIVATE BAG #3
ZOMBA, MALAWI

You may, however, use up any remaining BRM envelopes which have the old Thondwe address, since the Zomba postmaster has assured us that all WBS mail, which is already being sorted in Zomba, will be intercepted there and forwarded to the new Zomba address instead.



STUDENT BOARD COURSE PREVIEW MAILBOX

Students available to all teachers

Showing website students from general WBS advertising
Show web students | email students | postal students | all students (76) students

544162 WAITING 24 MINUTES Claim Website Student

NAME	Wayde Holland
NATION	South Africa
LANGUAGE	English
GENDER	Male
RELIGION	None
MARITAL STATUS	Married
AGE	almost 32 years old
OCCUPATION	teacher
THE WAY	95%

Students Are Waiting now...

This shot from our Web teaching site was taken just as this sentence was being written. It indicates that 76 Web students—like Wayde in South Africa—who are waiting to have a WBS Web teacher claim them. They have been waiting for just one minute to over 24 hours.

Will you share Jesus as a WBS Web teacher? Register at www.worldbibleschool.net/teach. Claiming five students will take you only a few minutes each week. But why should eager souls wait any longer for the Bible?





Ghana **now**

By Joel Coppinger

My father Jake Coppinger launched World Bible School campaigns to Africa in 1979. Today, similar efforts are as fruitful as ever. What a joy it was to be met at the airport in Accra, Ghana, by loved ones with whom we personally have labored the last seven years in WBS campaigns. The Ghanaian brethren planned well and had prospects waiting at almost every stop. The church members in the area brought their friends and family to study with us.

We worked the first week in the Mankissim area near the Bay of Guinea off the Atlantic Ocean. We taught in private and public schools, in church buildings and under trees. Eighty-five were baptized, six



Greg Grounds, Jeannine Rucker, Joel Coppinger, Pat Coppinger and Larry Goodin

were restored and one new congregation was established during that first week.

The second week our center of operations was in Kumasi, capital of Ashanti Region. In this city of nearly two million, we baptized 161 precious souls into Christ. Our campaign efforts resulted in a total of 246 conversions.

Working together with the wonderful people of Ghana, God was glorified. We have every confidence the local brethren will welcome these new babes in Christ into their loving church families and nurture them to spiritual maturity.



Divine Intervention (from page 2)

Christ. In our Bible studies, my questions were answered from the Bible—Scriptures I never even knew existed! Scriptures showing the necessity of baptism by immersion were most eye-opening. (We never got past the Gospels in the Church of England.)

I was baptized December 22, 1986, and I am forever grateful to WBS. It was indeed a blessing that WBS had these lessons available for FREE! I lived in Jamaica all my life and had never heard of the church of Christ.

I am forever grateful to WBS. It was indeed a blessing that WBS had lessons available for FREE!

After putting on Christ in baptism, I worshipped with the Patrick City church for six years; then with the Wiesbaden church in Germany for five years; then with the Flatlands church in Brooklyn, NY, for seven years; and currently here in Orlando with the Southside church of Christ. God has blessed me along the way. My motto is, "No day is a good day for Christians to have a bad day."



Baptisms in Ghana

Younger Than My Birthday



By Raymond Onwumere
in Christ:

My beloved Greetings from my family to all in your home; hoping this will reach you in good health

as you strive for the hope of our calling.

Sometimes we take off at least a day in each year to thank God for His goodness in our lives. To me Saturday last week was very special as, by the clock, I turned 58 years old. My second daughter Mercy was the first caller that Saturday morning. She woke me up with a joyful song: "Happy birthday to you." After the song, she asked me with the same tune, "How old are you

now?" Then I replied with the same tune, "I am 58 years." It was all joyful that Saturday morning as we sang and prayed together.

My 58 years on earth was exactly my 38 years in Christ because I was converted by Vernal McCall, a World Bible School teacher, when I was 20 years old in 1974. Vernal turned 102 years in July 2012.

Often people tell me that I look younger than my age. I tell them, "Yes, because 20 years of my old life in the world must be subtracted from my entire 58 years so that I will look 38 years younger." I married my wife,

Susana at the age of 28, and this year also clocked my 30 years in a married life. We are blessed with three children: Patience, Mercy and Samuel.

The work of evangelism is still progressing and has been yielding fruitful

results... not only preaching in a particular congregation but also evangelizing within my vicinities, from one city to another. My decision is to do the work of Lord and finish it. I pray that

strong health will be available to me, so that my strong will in Christ will ever be accomplished.

My decision is to do the work of Lord. I pray that strong health will be available to me.



and now Spanish Internet!



By Kristi Bond

World Bible School is pleased to announce the public launch of www.escuelabiblicamundial.org. The site is exactly the same as our very successful www.worldbibleschool.org site. The only difference is that everything is in Spanish. This means that Spanish-speaking seekers can study the Bible with Spanish-speaking Christians. No English is necessary.

Since October 2012 when the site became active, we have been hard at work



Kristi Bond, Jonathan Towell and Rolando Guerrero in Santo Domingo

promoting it, both for students and teachers. In November we unveiled it at the Pan American Lectureship in the Dominican Republic. While in Santo Domingo, we met with 36 Christian leaders from the area to talk about Escuela Bíblica Mundial (EBM). We showed them the simplicity and user-friendliness of this new teaching method. Since then ten Christians from Santo Domingo

have signed up to become teachers and taken Spanish-speaking students. Most of these teachers do not speak or read any English.



Meeting in the Dominican Republic

it is so affordable to find Spanish-speaking seekers, we are overwhelmed with Spanish-speaking students on only a few dollars per day of advertising. If you speak Spanish, please sign up and take a student. If you know a Christian who speaks Spanish, please tell them about this need.

Lastly, I want to leave you with some words from Rolando Guerrero, our brother from Santo Domingo who is teaching using www.escuelabiblicamundial.org:

"I am writing to tell you that the EBM web program is incredible. I am amazed at the excellent work done. It's a complete success and it is very easy and fast."

We need web teachers now! Sign up to teach Spanish or English here: www.worldbibleschool.net/register.

Language	Website	Location	Cost per student
English	worldbibleschool.org	USA	\$3.00
English	worldbibleschool.org	Africa	\$1.25
Spanish	escuelabiblicamundial.org	Latin America	\$.17
Spanish	escuelabiblicamundial.org	Dominican Republic	\$.92

Upcoming with WBS...

Challenge to Change

in the March issue.



World Bible School



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