

Rain Down RIGHTEOUSNESS

Welcome to the inaugural year of **Bibles for Millions!** In 2019, *Action!* emphasizes God's Word, beginning with vivid pictures of rain and water.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed

with
Bibles for Millions

in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11).

This monumental fact motivates World Bible School. The *Bible* is our middle name, the beating heart of every lesson because of the truth expressed by Isaiah 55. Like Jesus in John 6, we experience many losses. But, like Him, we persist in sharing the Word, assured that "it shall not return to Me empty."

Through WBS and Bibles for Millions, God rains down His Word that grows great harvests—as *Action!* constantly attests.

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A Gift From Above

Ingrid, who lives in Pretoria, South Africa, suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease, also called ALS. The disease has robbed her of mobility, so that now she is basically a quadriplegic. She still can use a computer, typing with her eye movements. Here is the message she shared with us and with family and friends on Facebook.



Ingrid prepares for baptism.

On Wednesday 21 November, 2018, I received the spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit. The day before my 44th birthday, I was baptized. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Jesus, who lives in me. Thank you to World Bible School, who made it possible for me. Given my fragile state, they came

to my home, and baptized me here. I have been praying for this moment for so long. God answers prayers! Thank you to Richard Patton [of the WBS office], who lives 9,000 miles away near Austin, Texas, and my study helper, Brenda Hatcher, who lives in Tennessee. They arranged for my new friends, Machona and Lazarus [of Gospel Chariot], to assist with my baptism.

Words can't describe the gratitude I feel! My life could've been so much worse if I had chosen to stay bitter and angry. But somehow God led me to this amazing Bible study, which has changed my life. It took three days to arrange my baptism, all the way from the States. I don't know how much time I have left, but I know that I'm on the right path, the path with the only living Light (John 8:12).

But somehow God led me to this amazing WBS Bible study, which has changed my life.

I don't want to try figure out the "why" behind my illness, because I now have the peace of mind that God has a plan for my life. He is a loving, merciful and gracious God, who demonstrated His love and mercy for us, by sending His Son to die for us. Isaiah 55: 9 says "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

I feel truly blessed that I have loving and supportive people in my life. I am really exhausted by the events of this past week, but I feel amazing. If anyone wants to find out about doing a Bible study, feel free to message me anytime.

Praise God! Pray for Ingrid as she grows in grace and knowledge, even as she struggles with her illness. Pray also for many more like her who need to know Jesus.

The New Camper

Ted Burleson — HAMILTON, Alabama

People in northwest Alabama and northeast Mississippi are blessed to have Maywood Christian Camp. Often, when a camper shows up without a Bible, WBS Bibles are made available to them. There are many success stories each summer at Maywood with dozens obeying the Gospel and hundreds responding for prayers.

One young man from the community attended camp on a scholarship provided by a Christian. He admitted during Bible class that he had never opened a Bible, much less owned a copy. We gave him a WBS Bible. He immediately opened the Bible and began reading. He said, "Wow! They've even divided it into sections."



At each of the two daily Bible class sessions and worship opportunities, the new camper could be seen reading his Bible. A young man in his cabin helped him answer questions and study the notes in the back of the WBS Bible. The teenager told his teacher one morning before class, "Matthew stayed up with me until 4:00 a.m. studying the Bible and helping me search for answers."

On Friday afternoon, our new camper who had spent the week searching the Scriptures requested baptism. Since that time, he has continued attending worship services and even spoke at one of the evening assemblies. He continues to grow in the knowledge of the Lord. Thank you for making the WBS Bible and study notes available!



PAL participants meet with Cuban church



Jim and Mikal Frazier and Jane and Howard Norton in Havana

PAL's Grand Finale

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Pan American Lectureship (PAL) is a remarkable story of vision and fulfillment. Much of the vision began with Reuel Lemmons, well-known evangelist and editor. His heart ached for the lost of Latin America and also for lack of awareness on the part of Christians in North America. His strategy: "If we can get them to come to this part of the world, they will see the need and the opportunities, and they will provide the resources for mission work." Thus began the first PAL in 1963, in Guatemala City. Since then regular PALs have been held in nearly every Latin American nation, stimulating mission efforts that have thrived in many places.

In 1984—the year Reuel became Director of WBS—Jim Frazier, Howard Norton and Dan Coker became the organizers of PAL in Buenos Aires and have continued since then. Howard says, "The church in South America has an entirely different look from what it did in 1963." The sponsoring church, Jackson St. in Monroe, LA, and PAL coordinators (Dan Coker, Don DeLukie, David Duncan, Jim Frazier, Kelley Grant, Jeff Jenkins, Howard Norton and Paul Shero) believe PAL's purposes for awareness, involvement and church growth, have been fulfilled.

PAL's grand finale, November 5-11, 2018, focused on Cuba. During the ship passage from Fort Lauderdale to Havana, Cuba, Beth and I joined 94 other participants in worship, inspiring biblical lessons, reviews of PAL history, and summaries by Tim Archer on Cuban culture and evangelism. The highlight took place when we all boarded three buses and met with our Cuban brothers and sisters at the 10th of October St. church building in Havana. One sign of changing times: where previously Cuban police might have prevented the meeting, this time they blocked the street to assist our safe arrival. The church facility was packed. Reports of growth were amazing. Emotions ran high. God was glorified—a truly fitting climax to many high impact PALs through the years!

Sowing a Legacy



It's been almost 20 years that my wife and I were visiting Epcot in Florida and saw a new project called: *Leave a Legacy*. This project allowed a picture to be taken of up to two people, which in turn would be etched on a metal plate, then mounted on a large granite stone for future guests to view. Maybe you have been to the entrance of Epcot and seen this large stone garden. Somewhere in that display is a picture of my daughters, taken these many years ago. Even now, it allows us to return and remember and enjoy.

We humans have always wanted to leave a part of ourselves for future generations to remember, to take note and hopefully to benefit. I'm sure you've seen untold numbers of places of remembrance from the Lincoln Memorial to the traditional site of the tomb where the crucified Christ was laid.

Have you considered leaving a legacy for future generations? I'm not speaking of one that is made of stone or brick, but one that enables tens, hundreds, even thousands to join you in reaching an eternal home with our Creator and Father.

In 2018, WBS received wonderful legacy gifts: from \$500 to over \$1,000,000. These came from blue collar workers who had lived long, worked hard and planned ahead. Praise the Lord for generous Christians who desperately want others to know Jesus as they know Him!

Hebrews 12:1 reminds us, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run the race with endurance." It is never too early, or too late to plan—not only to run your race, but to prepare the way for others behind you so they also run well. This year I urge

you to pass that baton and make your plans to leave a legacy for future generations of seekers. Go to **worldbible school.net/give** and read about "Planned Giving With A Mission," or request the brochure at legacy@worldbibleschool.net. It's time to Sow A Legacy and make an eternal difference for those who come after you. Don't wait!



Pat Brown is always available to talk to friends of WBS—individuals and churches. Contact him at pat@worldbibleschool.net.



WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

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Arrivederci, Carl Mitchell



Just before press time, December 20th, 2018, we learned that Dr. Carl Mitchell had just emigrated to glory. He and Frankie were missionaries to Italy for 18 years, and remained engaged with Italian missions throughout their active lives. Carl taught at Pepperdine University and Harding University, 20 and 23 years respectively, and served as a highly respected Dean at each. His professorships included Psychology, Theology, Missiology and Christian Counseling.

Carl's friendship with Jimmie Lovell, founder of WBS, spanned many years. Carl loved WBS as a powerful expression of "the priesthood of the believer"—every member's involvement in fulfilling the Great Commission. Carl brought this passion, with extensive experience and profound wisdom, to the WBS Board. He retired from the WBS Board in 2015 at age 89. We continue to value, and to benefit from, his influence. We ask God's comfort to be with Frankie and the family.



From Mary Bearden: **We have been so encouraged by the increase in people wanting to study, especially via the postal method! I love the new "further study" books WBS has added! Thanks so much for all you do there. I have been in this program since the 1970s, and it is still a very vital program, even more so in the days we live in.**

Bob Patterson: **I mentioned at the lectureship how *Action!* impacts our congregation and others all over the country. I always read your publication from front to back. The articles are encouraging and often instructive. WBS is part of our mission work here at Southwest in Tigard.**

Chris Magadu, Zimbabwe: **I have held several WBS workshops across Zimbabwe in order to share the vision of spreading the Gospel through WBS lessons. Reception was overwhelming. Other visits included major prisons such as Mutare Central Prison, Harare Central and Maximum Prisons, Mutimurefu Prison in Masvingo, Whawha Prison in Gweru and Khami Prison in Bulawayo. On November 17, I preached in Kadoma Prison and 90 prisoners were baptized. All these were WBS students. On December 15, I will go to Khami Prison in Bulawayo to baptize prisoners who are WBS students.**

Bob and Jan Towell Honored

World English Institute has deep roots in World Bible School, going back to Dick Ady's service on the WBS Board. Each year, WBS, WEI and China Now share a presentation lunch at Harding University's Lectureship. Bob and Jan Towell were recognized at the 2018 lunch, which drew 260 participants. Then, at the evening lecture, the Towells received Harding's Distinguished Christian Service Award. Lectureship Director, Dan Williams, cited "more than three decades of behind-the-scenes, invaluable leadership that has made WEI so effective in fulfilling the Great Commission." We join Harding, WEI and the Towell family and friends in honoring Bob and Jan. They and their grandson, Jonathan, pioneered English and Bible teaching via the Internet, and Jonathan launched a new Internet era for WBS.



The *WEI Update* newsletter announcing the Towell's award reflects on the ongoing partnership between WBS and WEI. In an article, the Towells report: "Rejoice with the angels in heaven and Gail Allen in Springfield, TN. Gail began teaching WEI three years ago to offer it to her WBS students. Steve Miller of Johannesburg completed the courses and requested baptism. Dimpo, Machona and Lazarus, of the Gospel Chariot Ministry went to visit Steve. He was very excited. They walked to the Turffontein church building about a block away." GCM's coordinator for WBS follow up, appropriately name Lazarus, helped Steve put on Christ in baptism. Turffontein church members were present to welcome Steve. Truly, God is raining down righteousness through wonderful partners and partnerships!

Tim Yaeger Appointed

The fall 2018 meeting of World Bible School's Board of Directors appointed Tim Yaeger to the role of Vice President of Technology and Digital Strategy. In this role, Tim follows Kit Mullins and Jonathan Towell. Each has significantly moved WBS forward. Opportunities are accelerating, and WBS is blessed to benefit from Tim's experience as a dedicated Christian and as a digital marketer and strategist—skills well suited for "raining down righteousness" today.

Tim was born in St. Croix Falls, WI, and grew up in Searcy, AR. He earned a B.S. in Interactive Media and an M.B.A. from Harding University (2009). In Birmingham, AL, he served Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a Web Data Analyst, and Wunderman as a Senior Digital Strategist. Even while "tent-making," Tim's desire has always been to develop tools for the King's use. His goal: "I want to use the talent God has given me to reach the lost and strengthen the church with digital efforts"—efforts that have included ministry with the Riverchase church of Christ and Tim's Ichthus Digital ministry for church websites (ichthusdigital.com).



Tim and Katie Yaeger with their children (left to right) Maria, Luke, Julia, Sara, Noah and Gabriel

Tim and Katie have been married for 15 years and have six children. Katie earned a B.A. in Vocational Ministry from Harding University (2001) and completed her M.A. in Counseling from Freed-Hardeman (2005). Katie grew up in Italy and was blessed by the missionary hearts of her parents, the Terry Edwards, and grandparents, the Earl Edwards. Her current Kingdom work is homeschooling the children and keeping the home running smoothly, which allows Tim to focus on advancing the reach, speed and interactive effectiveness of WBS.

Bibles for Millions

Why This Bible?

The World Bible School Study Edition Bible is the specific Bible for the multi-year, multi-national drive called **Bibles for Millions**. That is because WBS and **Bibles for Millions** value relationships—the personal connections created in sharing a Bible. Acts 8 provides the model. The Scriptures themselves are of utmost value. The Ethiopian has a prized copy. He is reading it, and yet he needs assistance. So God also provides a relationship, namely Philip as a helper for understanding the Scriptures. That is the concept behind **Bibles for Millions** in which God provides the Bible and, along with the Bible, opportunities for relationship and assistance. This Bible uses the English Standard Version (ESV), and in time may use other versions that share qualities of accuracy and readability. Accompanying the Bible are 110 pages of “Going Deeper” study notes that daily prove they are meeting a huge need. Here is a Bible with notes that:

- ask questions that lead seekers to discover Bible answers for themselves (as compared with dictating beliefs).
- communicate with a respectful and positive tone (as compared with a negative approach).
- aim for relevance to today’s youth and prevalent worldviews (as compared with speaking past each other).
- call for biblical response to the Gospel, including baptism into Christ (as compared with today’s “sinner’s prayer”).
- promote New Testament Christianity, including one body under one Head (as compared with norms set by denominational divisions).
- present important teachings with honesty and clarity (as compared with avoiding basic biblical distinctives).
- lead from, or lead into, free WBS courses (as compared with little or no assistance).
- lead directly or indirectly to relationships, often based on WBS’ interactive Bible courses (as compared with a lack of follow-through).

The benefits are offered, never forced. This Bible provides opportunities for Christians who want to share God’s word, and opportunities for those in need, whether unchurched or needing to learn “the way of God more accurately.” Now, let’s offer these life-saving opportunities by the hundreds, then the thousands, then the millions!



Swiss Army Bibles. From Steve Hadley: I volunteer in a prison ministry in East Texas. I had Buck Griffith of NewLife Behavior send some of the WBS ESV Bibles. A couple of weeks ago, when I was at the prison, some of the inmate clerks working in the Chaplains Office commented on the Bibles. They called them “Swiss Army Bibles”—everything a Bible student might need in a compact package: Easy to understand translation, in a small but easy to read print, plus a concordance and Bible lessons in the back.

Note: New WBS Lesson Prices!

Long-time WBS Study Helpers appreciate that WBS purposefully

keeps costs very low. In fact, this modest increase in booklet prices is the first one in over eight years. Please continue to partner with WBS in sharing the Good News of Jesus using WBS tools. For complete pricing and for orders, contact orders@worldbibleschool.net or call WBS.

New Price Examples (see full price list)

- .25** *The Way to Life, etc.*
- .60** *God Has Spoken, This Is Good News, Knowing Jesus, Born of Water and Spirit, etc.*
- .80** *Family of God, Live a Life of Love, Muslim Courses, etc.*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Global Missions Conference 2019

with the theme, *Deep & Wide*, is October 10-12. It is organized by World Bible School and hosted by Brentwood Oaks church of Christ in Austin, Texas.

Join us! gmc2019.org

Cuban Report

Danny Truitt — DECATUR, Alabama



The Beltline World Bible School outreach in Cuba works closely with Alex in Havana. More than 60 preachers work with him in our WBS effort there, some in every province in Cuba. WBS gave us permission to print the WBS postal courses in Cuba, and we have been doing that since the beginning of our work there. When I initially talked

with Alex about this project, he explained that the postal system in Cuba is so broken that using the mail would not work there. His plan, which has worked wonderfully, was to take the booklets into the homes of the people and use them to have one-on-one Bible studies. The results have been amazing, with whole families being converted at one time in some instances.



Tim Archer Updates PAL on Cuba.

This particular WBS effort in Cuba has resulted in 138 baptisms this year. The total of baptisms from our beginning in January of 2016 through October 2018 is 343. One of the preachers who uses WBS has recently been allowed to do some

studies in one of the maximum security prisons in Cuba—something that I think may be a first.

Mayfair church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama, helped to initiate annual conferences for men and ladies respectively, and Beltline how helps with the ladies' conference. These too have been a great influence for growth in Cuba.

Steve's Story

While John Reese was in Pennsylvania in connection with a generous bequest, he visited with Ken, an elder, evangelist and teacher who has long served that region. Ken urged John to meet one of three people recently baptized. Surrounded by rustic fall colors, they drove to a farm famous for its apple orchards (Golden Delicious really is). They found Steve taking a break from fruit farming. He was re-building a classic Corvette.

It turns out that Steve regularly watches Billy Lambert's TV program *Getting To Know Your Bible* (highlighted in the September 2018 *Action!*). "What does the Bible say about how to be saved?" caught Steve's attention. He had heard plenty of human answers; now he wanted to learn from the Bible. He studied the World Bible School courses offered by Billy—all of the Master Series. Searching the Scriptures led Steve to a firm resolution to obey the Gospel. Ken assisted Steve with biblical baptism, and now the Lord is building Steve's new life.



Rain Down Righteousness—from page 1

In Isaiah's context, God had made astounding predictions: Babylon would fall, Cyrus would restore Israel, and God's mercy would defy imagination—this was His "word." Also embedded in Isaiah's restoration theme is the far greater rescue, God's Sacrifice for removing all sin. "He shall see [His suffering] and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous" (Isaiah 53:11). This too is His guaranteed "word," which relates to a beautiful vision.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit (Isaiah 45:8).

Add God's many prophecies that His kingdom will thrive.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9).

We have come to this very mountain, this unshakeable kingdom (Hebrews 12). Already, God's word is proving true: Knowledge of God is spreading. It will

cover the earth like waters cover the sea. If you believe this, let God "rain down righteousness" through you! Join **Bibles for Millions** (page 8). Give a Bible to a young camper (page 2). Share the Bible's truth with seekers, even in places like Casto's Cuba (page 2). Look for your opportunities in the inspiring stories of *Action!*



World Bible School is “You. Sharing Jesus.” True to that description, *you* are setting in motion a revolution in missions.

Bibles for Millions

A little background sets the stage. Teachers have bought Bibles from WBS for many years, primarily to send to their responsive students. In a typical year, we moved about 3,000 Bibles in this way. The January 2017 *Action!* announced *The Bible: World Bible School Study Edition* (English Standard Version). That first year alone saw Christians use **60,000** of the new Bibles! They used the Bibles for a wide range of opportunities in evangelism, edification and follow up. Then 2018 witnessed that total more than doubled, now approaching **150,000**. We knew this Bible was special, but such explosive growth was hardly anticipated. That is why we say that *you*—by your unprecedented response—are igniting a massive movement. Clearly, the WBS Study Edition Bible meets a deeply felt need among churches of Christ. (See some of the reasons on page 6.)

God’s overwhelming blessings and your profoundly positive feedback inspire us to “think big.” So far, relatively few know about this WBS Study Edition Bible. Imagine the world-impact as the wider brotherhood discovers its value. Imagine the Gospel seed sown as millions of these beautiful (yet inexpensive) Bibles get to work in hearts locally, regionally and globally. That vision—the vision *you* inspire—gives rise to a multi-year drive called **Bibles for Millions**.

Future issues of *Action!* will unfold more about **Bibles for Millions**. For now, two dimensions are essential to understand.

- 1) The power is in God’s Word, especially the Gospel. Study notes are valuable only as they direct seekers to find the Bible’s inspired answers.
- 2) **Bibles for Millions** is relational. Think of the Ethiopian in Acts 8. God provided him the Scriptures (Isaiah). *And* God provided a helper who came alongside and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The Ethiopian replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” He needed help. That God-given relationship resulted in biblical baptism and joy in salvation. That perfectly pictures the essence of **Bibles for Millions**.

**God provided the Ethiopian the Scriptures.
And He provided a helper who came alongside
him: “Do you understand what you are reading?”**

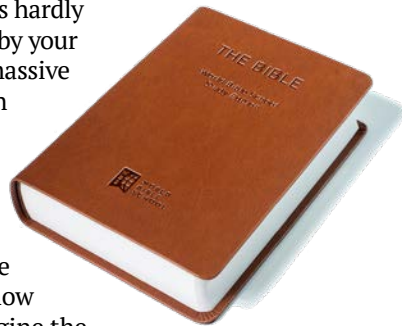
In a real sense, *you* started this movement. Will you continue, even more purposefully? Promote the **Bibles for Millions** concept so that more brothers and sisters catch the vision, resulting in God’s Word benefiting multiplied millions. Begin by ordering a Bible for yourself to show to your congregation: worldbibleschool.net/bible. Show how the Bible meets specific needs. This revolution is coming at just the right time for churches of Christ, and at just the right time for our nation and world.



Bibles for Millions

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
Action! World Bible School
P.O. Box 2169
Cedar Park, Texas 78630



You. Sharing Jesus.

with

Bibles for Millions

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