



LIGHT UP THE WORLD.

If anyone doubts that moral darkness envelopes our world, look no further than recent headlines. The New York senate voted 38-24 to allow abortion up to birth. When announced, the winning senators erupted in applause, cheering what amounted to the death sentence just passed on fully-formed babies. One lone voice reportedly cried out, “May almighty God have mercy on this state!”

About the same time, Virginia’s governor made news by seeming to endorse infanticide. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Senate voted on whether a child who survives abortion should receive the same protections as other babies. Forty-four senators defeated the bill.

Expressing surprise, the bill’s sponsor

with
Bibles for Millions

said, “Condemning infanticide should be a basic human rights issue.... This [bill] is about babies who had already been born, and are alive out of the womb, gasping for breath on the table.... This shouldn’t be about politics, it should be about having a heart!” He likened today’s situation to the Aztecs and the Greeks who left unwanted babies to die by exposure. **The darkness of pre-Christian paganism is descending on post-Christian America.**

International news is no better. Billions of suffering souls desperately call for light. Jesus replies, *I am the light of the*

world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8:12).

But those in darkness have no way to benefit. Unless. Unless believers—you and I—shine His Word for them to see.

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LIGHT for Iran

Bruce (name changed for security)

When I lived in Iran, I had to search online for Bible materials. I copied and pasted, or quickly downloaded, then shut down my connection as fast as I could. That was necessary to avoid detection from the *FATA Police*, as they are called in Iran. I studied and passed a few WBS courses. Though I had a Study Helper, I didn't know where she was, who she was or even where this "World Bible School" was.

I had a chance to travel to the United States for two weeks on a business visa and

to see my sister in Austin, TX. I emailed my Study Helper to let her know that I was in Austin. I asked whether she could refer me to any church in the Austin area where I could be baptized. She referred me to the church of Christ where I was baptized on a Tuesday. I had a ticket back to Iran on the coming Monday. I decided to go to communion on the Sunday before going back home. That was when I realized that my Study Helper—God bless her soul—was from the *same church*, and that WBS is based in Texas, and that the Lord wanted for me to find out.

I cancelled my trip back home, then completed all the WBS courses. I translated a few of them for Persian-speaking people that are over 120 million in several countries. Having a Persian translation can



open the door to many sister and parallel languages such as Kurdish, Urdu and Dari. Those languages easily address another 250 million people, totaling an audience of 400 million. I have been in the U.S. for six years now, and I'm in the last phases of becoming a citizen. I will be more than honored to help spread the Word by any means I can, and this [translation] is one way I am capable of. Thank you for all your outstanding hard work and efforts, and may the Lord be with you always.



LIGHT for Orphans Amid Tragedy

Janet Park — LUBBOCK, Texas

Violah Achieng, of Kisumu, Kenya, registered with World Bible School on June 13, 2018, and began her first lesson. Janet Park of Lubbock, Texas, "adopted" Violah as an online student. Violah's fast pace continued until August 1st when Janet awarded her the final certificate for completing the Master Series. During this time, the relationship

between Janet and Violah blossomed and later bore fruit in the midst of tragedy.

Janet learned that Violah oversaw an orphanage in Kisumu. Janet went online and asked Julius Ojunga, a preacher in Kisumu, to visit the orphanage and supply a report.

In early September, Julius contacted Violah and learned that the orphanage was a ministry of the church of Christ. While touring the orphanage, Violah asked Julius if he would take over and become the new director of the orphanage. Violah, in addition to directing the orphanage, was also a 25-year-old widow and mother

to three children of her own. Julius was prayerful in making his decision before he finally agreed.

Two weeks later, Violah contracted malaria and spent two weeks in the hospital. In early October, shortly after coming home, Violah was sent back to the hospital

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Violah



LIGHT from Chig (and he didn't even know it)

Howell Ferguson — JACKSON, Tennessee

Every time I visit Chimala, Tanzania, I am in awe at the variety of ways this mission has an impact on the lives of so many people. Only God knows the potential we have at the tips of our fingers. Let me give you just one example of how God continues to work.

During February, we had four visitors: Chad Scott, his two older sons, Graham and Campbell (members at our home

congregation of North Jackson) and Chad's father-in-law, Charles "Chig" Gunter. Chad worked with the hospital while his sons helped on the farm. Chig preached and taught as opportunities arose. Near the end of their stay, two other visitors came: Jim Kearns from Parkersburg, WV, and Ephron Mbano, one of our CBI graduates. All visitors stayed our "guest house" duplex.



On the last day of their visit, Chig was talking to Ephron about his years of teaching many people around the world through WBS. While talking, they both began to realize they recognized each other's name. As a younger man, Ephron had enrolled in a WBS correspondence course, and Chig had been his teacher. Ephron was later baptized, and Chig had not heard from him until that remarkable day. Ephron not only was one of our students from Malawi who received both his bachelor's and master's degrees, but he is currently the director of a preaching school in that country.

Wow! Isn't it amazing what God can do through the efforts of His people even though we may not know of the fruits for many years, if ever?

Nollie's Light Still Shines



In my home town in Oklahoma, spring often means severe weather, storms, even tornadoes that bring power outages. It is astounding to experience total darkness; then startling to see how, in the dark, a single candle attracts us and illuminates the room.

The New Testament tells how multitudes were drawn to Jesus, like light in a dark place. They sensed in Him a warm, living light.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.... The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world (John 1:4,9).

Last year, WBS received a bequest from a sweet sister in Christ, Nollie, a WBS Study Helper for 25 years. She wanted to continue helping students after she gained her eternal reward. Her executor wrote to us:

Nollie was loved by family and friends. She was presented a WBS plaque which embarrassed

and surprised her. She was so proud of the honor bestowed upon her. She passed away November 30, 2018, at the age of 102 and 7/12ths. Upon her death, she wanted to help one last time with a contribution towards World Bible School's world-wide program. The Lord blessed her in many ways and she never considered the money she earned and saved as being hers. She was very generous while she lived. She planned what she wanted to do with her estate.

WBS is committed to carrying Nollie's light forward. We and all WBS study helpers are her partners, shining the light of Jesus for generations to come. In Matthew 5:14-15, Jesus affirms this truth:

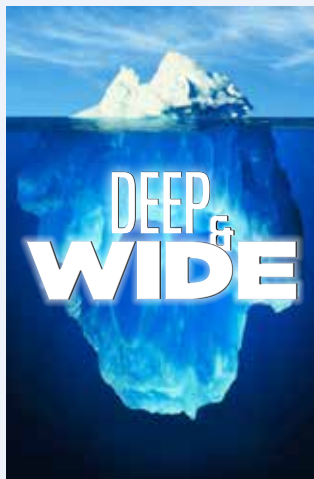
You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

It's true, a single candle lights up a room.



Yet the Great Commission challenges us to do more: to shine the Gospel-light across the globe! Commit today to follow Nollie's example. Grow in generosity while you live. Plan your estate so that millions in this dark world can enjoy "the light of life." WBS is you, sharing Jesus!

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



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



WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

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Three New WBS Board Members

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

As president of World Bible School, it is my pleasure to work with a dedicated Board of Directors, chaired by Howard Norton, elder statesman of Christian education, journalism and missions. The Board's quality continues with three recent additions, including two *firsts*.

Washington Mhlanga

was welcomed in 2018 as the *first* international member of the WBS Board. Since *World Bible School* spans the globe, the Board has long wanted wider representation. African nations, including Zimbabwe (two million enrolled in ten years), have led in responsiveness to the Gospel. Washington and Alice have long been involved in WBS' success. Both have advanced degrees from U.S. universities. Washington's management-level career at the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe took him to

many nations. Locally, he serves as an elder for the Avondale church in Harare, as the international liaison for the Nhowe Mission Brian Lemons Memorial Hospital, and as a coordinator for WBS and Gospel Chariot Missions.

Machona Monyamane

is the *first* person converted through WBS to serve on its Board. A native of South Africa, Machona suffered through the tragic upheavals of apartheid. As an activist, he studied the Bible and WBS courses to prove them wrong. Instead, they turned him to Christ, and George Funk baptized him. Machona has never looked back. He is married to Thabelo. His leadership and strategic skills, with advanced education that includes Harding University, have blessed local preaching, counseling, preacher training and missions for over 16 years. He helps to coordinate Gospel Chariot Missions and WBS follow up in Southern Africa.

Kent Allen

Howard Norton describes our newest Board member, Kent Allen:

"I have known Kent since he was my student at Oklahoma Christian University. Kent and I worked together for many years at the Memorial Road church of Christ in Edmond, OK.

In fact, when I left Oklahoma, Kent followed me in the pulpit and led the congregation to a 2,500-plus member church. Later, he left the pulpit and served several years as an elder of Memorial Road. For nearly a decade, he has been the Vice President of Development at OC. He is a tireless worker and a man of great dedication and integrity. I have great confidence in Kent."



Kent

We share Howard's confidence and are excited to have someone of Kent's caliber to join us.

* * * * *

God continues to bless WBS with godly, gifted leaders to serve as Board members. Each and every one adds great value as we fulfill our mission—equipping everyday Christians to share Jesus with a lost world.



Washington (left) with fellow Board member, Keith Rall, at the meeting last October



Machona and Thabelo

Light for Orphans from page 2

on a Thursday. On Friday, Julius informed Janet that Violah was diagnosed with cancer; she needed emergency surgery that very day. On Saturday, he wrote to say Violah had not awakened from surgery. By Sunday, Janet learned that Violah had died. Julius and his wife had

been taking care of Violah's children while she was sick, and since then, have taken them as part of their family.

Janet contacted the sponsor of Julius' work, the Smithwick church of Christ in Marble Falls, TX. She talked with the deacon who recently returned from visiting Kisumu. He shared that Julius himself is a WBS graduate from 1999 and last year helped to enroll 1,013 WBS students that resulted in 52 baptisms. Furthermore, Julius conducts three WBS seminars and three fruitful preacher training seminars each year.

Julius has continued to send Janet reports and photos from the Kisumu orphanage. Janet's congregation, the

Sunrise church of Christ in Lubbock, TX, is now involved. Each child's picture is posted so that, as Janet says, "all of the children can be spiritually adopted and prayed for by the members of the congregation." Despite Violah's unexpected death, God's light is still shining for all the children she loved so much.



Julius, his wife and their two children...



...and the new, larger Ojunga family



LIGHT through Prayer and Fasting

Phil Palmer — ABILENE, Texas

On March 9th, Christians across East Africa were invited to pray and fast for WBS. Many participated, both there and in the U.S. Some items for prayer were:

- The smooth provision of WBS courses to students and the return of those courses to their teachers (especially challenged by poor postal systems).
- The physical, spiritual and emotional care of church workers doing recruiting and follow-up, along with their families.
- The hearts of those who hear the Gospel to be touched to surrender to Jesus and be effectively added to His church.

Thank God for the assurance that He hears and answers!

East African Reports

The WBS office in Cedar Park regularly receives encouraging reports from East Africa. Here are two examples.

Geoffrey Oguttu, the WBS Service Center Director for Uganda, is typical of WBS Service Center workers in that he whole-heartedly serves the Lord in several ways. On February 25 this year, he helped baptize 18 students where he teaches, the Harding Academy, a high school near Jinja, sponsored by the church of Christ. Then a few days later, at the Bunaibamba church of Christ in Eastern Uganda, he helped baptize five women, two of whom were formerly Muslims. He says, "Pray for these five



Bunaibamba baptisms



Harding (Uganda) baptisms

people, more so those from the Muslim homes, because the devil may use their family members to stand against them."

Mauryn Mbuvi in Kenya compiles reports from follow up workers and sends extensive reports regularly. Baptisms recorded in the latest report add up to 86. Here are two typical notes: From Kenya's Western Province, Isaac Lumbasi "introduced some students to study as well as going around getting the lessons from the students and handing out the Intros. Among those with whom he had studies, three believed and gave their lives to Christ." In Kapsabet, Juliet Chesang and co-workers "held a youth seminar and many attended. They had Bible studies as well as enrolling them to study with WBS, and seven gave their lives to Christ and were baptized."

Praise God for receptive hearts! Keep praying for the delivery solutions needed in regions where mail delivery is problematic.



LIGHT for Sudanese Refugees

Tim Brumfield — LUBBOCK, Texas

The 3rd and Kilgore church of Christ in Portales, NM, (my hometown congregation) made a very sacrificial contribution and purchased thousands of World Bible School courses. They sent them to Uganda as a way to share Jesus

with South Sudanese refugees in the many camps there. On January 18, 2019, we opened the WBS Service Center in Bweyale, Uganda, beside the Kiryandongo Refugee Camp. Stephen Obalim works there and is doing a great job. A number of WBS students have been baptized already.

It is exciting that this Center is fully equipped with a sophisticated scanner so we can scan and email WBS answer sheets directly to the U.S., and not wait for slow, undependable postal services. We can

now give the students the next course as soon as they return answer sheets. Plus, they get their graded lessons back very quickly. Some lessons are graded by South Sudanese



evangelists and some are emailed to the U.S. All of this results in much higher student retention and responsiveness. What an exciting and effective strategy for world evangelism! Your congregation may want to consider doing something like this. Let's get together to share partnering ideas. My email is timb@worldbibleschool.net.



Stephen in the WBS Service Center



LIGHT for Ethiopia through Linda's example of follow up

Laura Metz — MEMPHIS, Tennessee

Jembere lives in Gimbi, Ethiopia. Linda Haught, his WBS Study Helper, lives in Stark City, MO. For the last two years, the postal service has carried WBS lessons back and forth between the two. One way, the trip is nearly 8,000 miles, as the completely exhausted crow flies.

Despite the distance, their Bible study went well and Jembere told Linda he needed to be baptized. His request led to a flurry of emails between Linda and WBS, until Moges, of Addis Abba, eagerly agreed to assist with follow up. Moges, though closer than Linda, was still 300 miles away. He called Lemma in Nekemte. The very next day, Jembere woke early and travelled 70 miles to meet Lemma. After being baptized into Christ, and five hours of further study, Jembere returned home. Lemma and Jembere agreed to get

together so that more in his community could join their studies. *How beautiful are the feet*—and envelopes, computers and phones—*of those who preach the Good News!*



LIGHT for Zimbabwe through teamwork

Chris Magadu and A. Mashaba — Zimbabwe

February and March, 2019, provided more examples of the great team involving local Christians, World Bible School and Gospel Chariot Missions (GCM). Chris Magadu, Washington and Alice Mhlanga, Maidei Thandi and others joined GCM driver/evangelist Auswich Mashaba and his wife, Onai, for intensive door-to-door evangelism and public preaching. The outreach in Murambinda

culminated in a WBS seminar that saw 15 baptized into Christ. A similar seminar in Hauna, with local evangelist Jethro Dube, resulted in 35 baptisms. Chris reports enrolling 1,820 new WBS students in the first half of March. He also reports excellent progress for the orphans at the Chivero Home of Hope near Norton.

Zimbabwe continues among the leaders in student recruiting. In 2018, the WBS home office in Cedar Park, TX, recorded 172,049 Zimbabwean enrollments. Other top nations are Malawi (253,600), Kenya (193,476), Nigeria (179,094), Ghana (166,759) and



Orphans at the Chivero Home of Hope

South Africa (153,751). In each country, many more enrolled directly with teachers, through the programs of local U.S. congregations.

700 Evangelists at the Great Workshop

Chad Wagner — SCOTTS HILL, Tennessee

On February 6-8, 2019, over 700 World Bible School follow-up workers and evangelists gathered in Imo State, Nigeria—likely Africa's largest gathering for preachers of churches of Christ!

Mike Udam is the Great Workshop director every year. Speakers from all over Nigeria spoke on topics ranging from effective WBS follow-up work, to WBS history, evangelism and much more. Presentations on the importance of the evangelist not neglecting his family were warmly received.

On one night of the Workshop, all 700 preachers evangelized door-to-door, with great impact. That led to a Gospel Meeting using the Nigerian Gospel Chariot. An interesting competition developed. While the Gospel Chariot truck was set up in the local market place, a charismatic church across the street decided to play their loud

music during our campaign. The workers on the chariot increased the volume on our speakers. The charismatics then did the same; but at some point they turned off their music and listened to the Gospel being preached on the Chariot. God's light is shining every day in Nigeria.

In a separate report, veteran evangelist Makeinde Olufemi adds, "Brother Chad Wagner was our guest speaker. Among the books shared were 3,000 copies of *Voice of Truth International*, tracts and books by Sylvester Imogoh, and 5,000 copies of the WBS Introduction Lessons sent by Joel Coppinger [of Visalia, CA]."



The Gospel Chariot at the Great Workshop

Light Up the World from page 1

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.... The unfolding of Your words gives light (Psalm 119:105,130).

Who will "unfold" God's word for the needy? Last year, well over 1,400,000 asked WBS for Bible studies. As more cry out for light, we are answering with **Bibles for Millions**. More than a copy for a community, more than random distribution, **Bibles for Millions** is Bibles with *relationships*. As you uphold God's word, you "shine as lights in the world" (Phil 2:15-16). God is light, and the Creator of light. "His lightnings light up the world" (Psalm 97:4). Will you become His spiritual lightnings—flashing in the darkness, piercing the inky storm, letting the longing eyes see? Will you share Jesus with many more seekers through WBS and **Bibles for Millions**?

Bibles for Millions



SPARK for Florida

John Reese
CEDAR PARK, Texas

Recently I participated in the Spark Conference, hosted by the Lakeside church of Christ in Orange Park, FL. Spark takes the benefit of Polishing the Pulpit (PTP) to regional events across the U.S. The next PTP—which typically has 150 speakers and attracts about 5,000—is planned for August 16-22 in Sevierville, TN. My wife and I were impressed by the Jacksonville mini-PTP. The numbers and the mix of ages and ethnicities were exciting. Speakers and classes were relevant. Enthusiasm was high. We brought along samples of the new WBS Bible. Even before I could announce them in my speaking turn, nearly all were claimed for congregations to evaluate. If your congregational leaders have not yet seen a sample, call Debbie at 877-393-0211. Join the **Bibles for Millions** drive!

“Fan into flame the gift of God” (2 Timothy 1:6).



SPARK for the World

In my public speaking, I often use the analogy of a spark. When New Testament Christians send WBS lessons, they are like sparks carried by high winds. WBS students who urgently ask for Bible study are like brushwood, ready to receive the Good News. When the Gospel’s spark lands in such dry tinder, it ignites a wildfire, especially in receptive regions. We report on the activities of WBS teachers, but the real news comes afterwards: Those reached through WBS run with the Gospel more effectively than we ever could since they know their own language, culture

Bibles for Millions

and social networks. Thus, one correspondence course that reached Nigeria in mid-twentieth century sparked a movement that today counts 10,000 or more churches of Christ.

With that spark imagery in mind, picture the result as 1,422,846 new students—enrolled through our Cedar Park office—received WBS lessons in 2018. Think about the effect as even more—beyond the 1.4 million mark—enrolled through WBS programs at congregations. Imagine the impact as the new Study Edition Bibles with WBS notes encounter receptive hearts. 62,344 were deployed in 2017, the launch year; then 81,962 in 2018. In January-February of 2019, 10,994 have already been used, a 48% increase over the same period in 2018. With your help, many more will go to work in 2019. Each Bible shines divine light that dispels this world’s darkness. Each lights the path to freedom and Christ-likeness. Each carries the spark that ignites new believers. WBS is “you sharing Jesus” so that others can share Him with yet more... fanning a spreading firestorm of faith! No wonder so many are excited to participate in WBS and **Bibles for Millions**!



You. Sharing Jesus.

POSTMASTER:

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Cedar Park, Texas 78630



upcoming...

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of the
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