

You.  
Sharing  
Jesus.



JAN 22 vol 86:1

# ACTION!

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# grounded & **GROWING!**

BY **BRIAN DAVIS** CEDAR PARK, TEXAS  
WBS ACTION! EDITOR AND PRESIDENT



The young man on this issue's cover is one of my WBS students in Zambia. When I first met him, he did not know God has spoken. Nor did he know that God gives us a guide to New Testament Christianity in His Word.

**FROM THE ACTS  
OF THE APOSTLES  
TO THE "ACTION!"  
OF CHRISTIANS  
SHARING THEIR FAITH  
THROUGH WBS  
DIGITAL TOOLS,  
THE GOSPEL MUST  
BE TAUGHT!**

Can you imagine yourself not knowing these truths? How we would be grasping for understanding the world around us! How we would be confused by the contradictory teachings around us.

Thankfully, God *has* spoken. His will is revealed for the world—all of the world—to know. God's will is revealed in a way accessible and

understandable to all from the academic scholar to the very poor of our world. How liberating! What a relief... to know my Creator's will for my life. Thank you, God!

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 5:42) Jesus is the culmination of how God is accomplishing His will for



**Brian  
& Sondra's  
sons, Bryson and Noah, sharing  
WBS tools with the friends they grew up  
with on the mission field in Zambia.**

our lives. Because of Who Jesus is, His teachings matter.

This is why *World Bible School* exists, to help Christians do our part in sharing this Good News of Jesus Christ. What a privilege! What a responsibility! From the Acts of the Apostles to the "Action!" of Christians sharing their faith through WBS tools, the Gospel must be taught.

Since 1973, WBS has been providing evangelism tools to Christians who want to participate in helping the world know of the hope that is in Jesus. From postal correspondence courses diligently mailed around the world to cutting-edge, online courses that can reach the most hostile political environments to a social media network that uses engaging videos for small group discussions, WBS is faithfully providing trustworthy and innovative tools for sharing the Word of God and introducing people to Jesus.

As a life-long missionary of the churches of Christ, I have seen the power of thousands of Christians sharing their faith with, literally, millions of students. I have worked in eight different cultures. In every one, WBS students were ready for follow-up as new churches were being established. What a powerful testimony of how God is working through all of us, together, who will simply share the name of Jesus with a world desperately needing to know!

**Preparing for Brian  
to be the new WBS President as of January  
2022, John and Beth Reese pass the official  
baton, hand crafted in Zimbabwe, to Brian and  
Sondra Davis. After Brian expressed his hope of  
also getting a world flag tie like John's,  
John gave him a world flag tie, too.  
Now that's a smooth transition!**





# OPEN DOORS INTO SOUTH SUDAN

BY **JOHN REESE** SEARCY, ARKANSAS  
WBS PRESIDENT EMERITUS

South Sudan is one of the newest nations on earth. For years the south—which favors Christianity—was oppressed by Sudan’s Islamic rulers in the north.

After a long and bitter struggle, South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Tribal differences, however, led the new nation into a prolonged civil war, displacing four million people. WBS representatives Tim Brumfield and Phil Palmer have made many productive trips to work with the refugees and into South Sudan itself. Phil reports,

*I have been making annual trips to South Sudan since 2017, and God is working there! It is an exciting time to lay foundations for the Kingdom’s future in a country that is just opening up. Security is improving. Many are returning to the country, including those reached for Christ in the refugee camps. The first WBS Service Centre worker, Patrick Lazarus, did a great job recruiting and teaching*

*students so that dozens completed all the courses in the first couple of years, with 40 baptisms resulting.*

*There is no postal service in South Sudan, making it imperative to provide courses as enrollments*

**RECEPTIVITY IS HIGH. WBS WORKERS CONSTANTLY AND URGENTLY APPEAL FOR BIBLES AND LESSONS.**

*multiply. Much of the work is done by young South Sudanese evangelists trained in our Bible schools in Tanzania and*

*Zimbabwe. It is thrilling to see their spirit, zeal and perseverance. Last summer, ten congregations appointed a member to focus on WBS recruiting and return lessons. Scanning is fully in place for American teachers who want students. Most students are being served personally by local Christians, so the retention is high, and the conversion results are great. In Aweil in the Muslim north, on two occasions our teams have baptized around 30 students. For a long time the congregation had only one Bible to share. A donation by a couple in Searcy allowed 30 WBS Study Bibles to reach them.*

People today may remember the foundational WBS work of Jimmie and Vivian Lovell, but do they remember co-workers like Howard and Margaret Cox? Their labors with the Lovells go as far back as 1960, helping to establish this outreach method, crowned with the name “World Bible School” in 1973. Margaret did back-office work (from homes), handling financial records and other details. When Howard retired from Boeing, both of them devoted full-time (1984-2011) to coordinating the WBS teaching effort at the Mission Viejo (CA) church of Christ.

Margaret passed away in 2016. Just before press time, we received news that Howard had, too, gone on to receive his crown. WBS aims to never forget God’s early work through His unsung heroes.



God is opening wide the doors into South Sudan. Receptivity is high. WBS workers there constantly and urgently appeal for Bibles and Bible courses. We must not miss this tremendous opportunity!



**CALL TO ACTION!** Help us innovate with ideas like pre-positioning of lessons to reach Sudanese and other seekers who are hungry for Good News. Donate generously to WBS, noting your gift for “Lessons and Bibles.” Mail checks to WBS or donate securely at [worldbibleschool.net/give](http://worldbibleschool.net/give)



psalm 127.4

**RAISING ARROWS** →  
in a digital world



## Raising Our Children in a Digital Age

BY **DEREK DRAKE** LOVELAND, OHIO  
WBS SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs

22:6). Parents have an incredibly difficult, yet crucial, role to fulfill. Over the next year, I hope to take this opportunity to encourage brethren—whether they’re parents, grandparents, church leaders, ministers, etc.—to think about the importance of parenting in a digital age.

“Training up a child” begins at home, is reinforced by study and is solidified in practice. A youth minister’s role is not the role of a parent. They play a role in reinforcing what should be taught at home! Psalm 127:3 says children are a “heritage” from the Lord. This word indicates that children belong to whom they’ve been given.

The passage goes on to say, “Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man

**LIKE ARROWS IN THE HAND OF A  
WARRIOR ARE THE CHILDREN OF  
ONE’S YOUTH. PSALM 124:7**

who fills his quiver with them! (Psalm 127:4-5a)” Notice verse 4 calls parents “warriors”, not an armorer who makes arrows and hands them over to a warrior to use. A warrior trains with and sharpens his arrows to ensure they are ready when they’re needed for the battle.

The battle we fight is not a battle of flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil (cf. Ephesians 6:12). We, as well as our arrows, must be prepared for the battle that lies ahead. The battle that our youth currently face is great!

As an “old millennial” I can say without a doubt that the struggles of our youth today are much greater than when I was a teen. Why? The accelerated growth of digital technologies and the role they play in everyday life. Technology, of course, isn’t inherently evil. In fact, WBS has developed digital tools to equip the saints for evangelism and to reach those seeking the truth. In the next issue, we’ll look at social media’s impact on our children and how parents can prepare their arrows for that battle.



CALL TO **ACTION!**

Register online for Mathetis, our new social media Bible study tool (below).  
Check out the great content for your family to learn to share Jesus with others.



## New Courses Coming to Mathetis

Mathetis is our social network for spiritual growth. Check out the Bible-based WBS Originals videos and other content at [mathetis.org/preview](http://mathetis.org/preview).



People wonder: “Am I in Christ?” Understand where we belong in Christ and how God wants us to live and worship Him in accordance with His will.



Tap into the rich truths God wants to reveal to us through commonly misunderstood scriptures. Gain a richer understanding and appreciation for Him and his Word.



Christians are not shielded from pain, grief and suffering. Learn from other Christians’ experiences through grief and how they enhanced their relationship with God.



God is the ultimate Creator! Grow into a greater understanding of God’s magnificent power and realize more reasons to glorify His name.



The Gospel of Christ is indeed good news! Learn how to share the Good News of Jesus which brings salvation, hope, peace and grace to a broken world.

# GROWING WITH MARCUS MCKEE

BY **TIM YAEGER** BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
WBS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER



January 2022 marks a significant milestone in the history of WBS.

John Reese has retired, and Brian Davis is the president of WBS. Brian is committed to keeping the mission grounded in the Word and growing in Christ. But the question may be in your mind, who is taking Brian's former role, and are they committed to the same principles?

In my four years at WBS, the Lord has thrown open doors for WBS to grow by leaps and bounds in staff and in methods to reach lost souls previously not touched with the Good News. Given this wonderful growth in tools and reach, Brian's former role will now be filled by two people. I will be assuming the role of Chief Information Officer. **Marcus McKee**, our new Chief

Growth Officer, will lead our departments of Advancement, Church Relations, Marketing and Curriculum Development.

Marcus joins WBS having grown up on the mission field in Indonesia, gaining 20 years of business experience, and most recently serving four years as the youth minister for the Lewisville church of Christ near Dallas. Marcus brings the mission and business discipline needed to continue the trajectory of growth with which God has blessed us. Beyond his career qualifications is his commitment to New Testament Christianity. Both Marcus and I are committed to keeping WBS grounded in the Word and focused on growth in evangelistic effectiveness.

**Your investment makes all this possible! Your investment of prayer, time in volunteering and giving funds is the fuel for the most important mission of all time—the mission of YOU sharing Jesus!**

**CALL TO ACTION!** Join me and all of WBS in welcoming Marcus. Feel free to send him a greeting at [marcus@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:marcus@worldbibleschool.net).



**Marcus McKee**



## ACTION!

EDITOR: BRIAN DAVIS

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16110 ANDERSON MILL RD · CEDAR PARK, TEXAS 78613  
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## Postal has Challenges—BUT IS STILL VITAL!

BY **BILL COLWELL** CEDAR PARK, TEXAS  
WBS CHURCH RELATIONS



**FIRST**, postal teaching has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. Since 1973, some 35 million seekers have been given the opportunity to study God's Word using WBS printed lessons. In 2019 alone, over 1.2 million new WBS students requested printed lessons. And

while these numbers decreased substantially in 2020 due to COVID, new postal student registrations are again on the

rise. Today, 85-90% of all new WBS students ask to study printed lessons sent to them through the mail. In short, printed lessons are crucial in sharing the Gospel around the world. We regularly hear from people requesting lessons for use to evangelize where they live.

Rusare's story (left) illustrates the power of God's Word and the effectiveness of WBS printed lessons communicating God's will to those who need to hear it. As WBS printed lessons helped change Rusare's life, they continue to change lives around the world today.

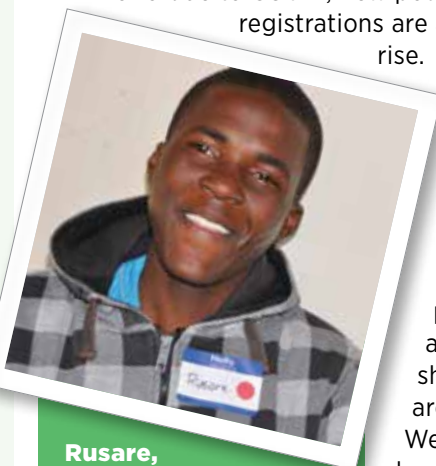
**SECOND**, it's true that WBS postal teaching faces challenges. In the best of circumstances, international postal systems struggle

to serve their customers reliably. On top of that, COVID restrictions have reduced, and in some cases stopped, international mail shipments to parts of the world. Partly due to the lengthy COVID disruption, Alpha Mailing Solutions, long-time international shipper of WBS lessons, is closing its doors (see below). These factors certainly complicate the efforts of Christians who want to share the Gospel by sending WBS printed lessons to their students overseas.

**THIRD**, WBS is committed to maintaining postal teaching as a viable and effective outreach tool. To that end, **WBS is assuming the international shipping role** that Alpha has performed so capably for almost 20 years. (Go to **www.worldbibleschool.net/internationalshipping** to learn more.) Also, we continue to pursue new technologies and alternative lesson delivery systems to help Study Helpers and students avoid the delays that can plague worldwide shipping and postal systems.

**WBS remains committed to the postal teaching method and to the thousands of Christians using it to reach out around the world. Please partner with us by becoming a WBS postal study helper. We will be happy to help you get started and show you how to use WBS successfully.**

*WBS IS  
**COMMITTED.**  
TO  
MAINTAINING  
**POSTAL**  
**TEACHING**  
AS A  
**VIALE AND**  
**EFFECTIVE**  
OUTREACH  
TOOL.*



**Rusare, a postal student in Zimbabwe had this to say:**

**"I'm one of the individuals who got changed through the WBS courses. I grew up in severe depression which caused my childhood to be a most devastating one. I had to run away from home and tried to commit suicide four times. I am succeeding in this change because WBS helped me understand the Bible in order for my life to be fruitful and strong. I am planning on teaching and changing other people's lives, for their lives to be brighter."**

**CALL TO ACTION!** Contact us! We're happy to explore ideas for local and world evangelism.





# Reaction to **ACTION!**

BY **JEFF JENKINS** LEWISVILLE, TEXAS  
WBS BOARD



A close preaching friend believes that the name “Great Commission” is the wrong moniker for the words of Jesus in Matthew 28. It’s not that the commission given by our Lord to His disciples isn’t great. My friend says that we should call it “The Global Commission.” He believes this would help us enlarge our view of the Lord’s vision and calling for the people of God. It might become even more meaningful if we spoke of the Lord’s marching orders for His people as being “Great” and “Global.”

One of the many reasons that I have come to love the work of World Bible School is because the people who work closely with this wonderful ministry understand the nature of our Savior’s charge to His Church.

*MAY I **ENCOURAGE**  
YOU TO FIND A WAY  
TO BE **INVOLVED**  
IN THIS **LIFE-  
CHANGING, LIFE-  
GIVING WORK.***

WBS not only fulfills this mission as well as any ministry on earth, but it also does this work with excellence. The staff of this great work is comprised of people who love the Lord and His cause with all their heart. Each one is focused on their individual assignment as well as their collective efforts.

When Brian Davis (the outstanding director who has recently received the mantle of leadership from John Reese), reached out to me asking if I would serve on the Board of Directors, it was an easy decision. When my dear friend and longtime mentor, Howard Norton, who currently serves as Chairman of the Board encouraged me to participate by explaining to me the value of this work, any concerns were quickly removed.

May I encourage you to find a way to be involved in this life-changing, life-giving work. There is something in this ministry for every Christian of every age. May our God be glorified as we continue to spread His Word throughout the world.

**The Shiloh Road congregation in Tyler, Texas,  
uses both postal and online WBS tools for great impact.**



**WORLD  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

You. Sharing Jesus.

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CALL TO **ACTION!** Above all, please **PRAY** that God will bless this work as we together seek to make His Name known among all the nations.

**U P C O M I N G . . .**



**GROWING**  
*in innovation*