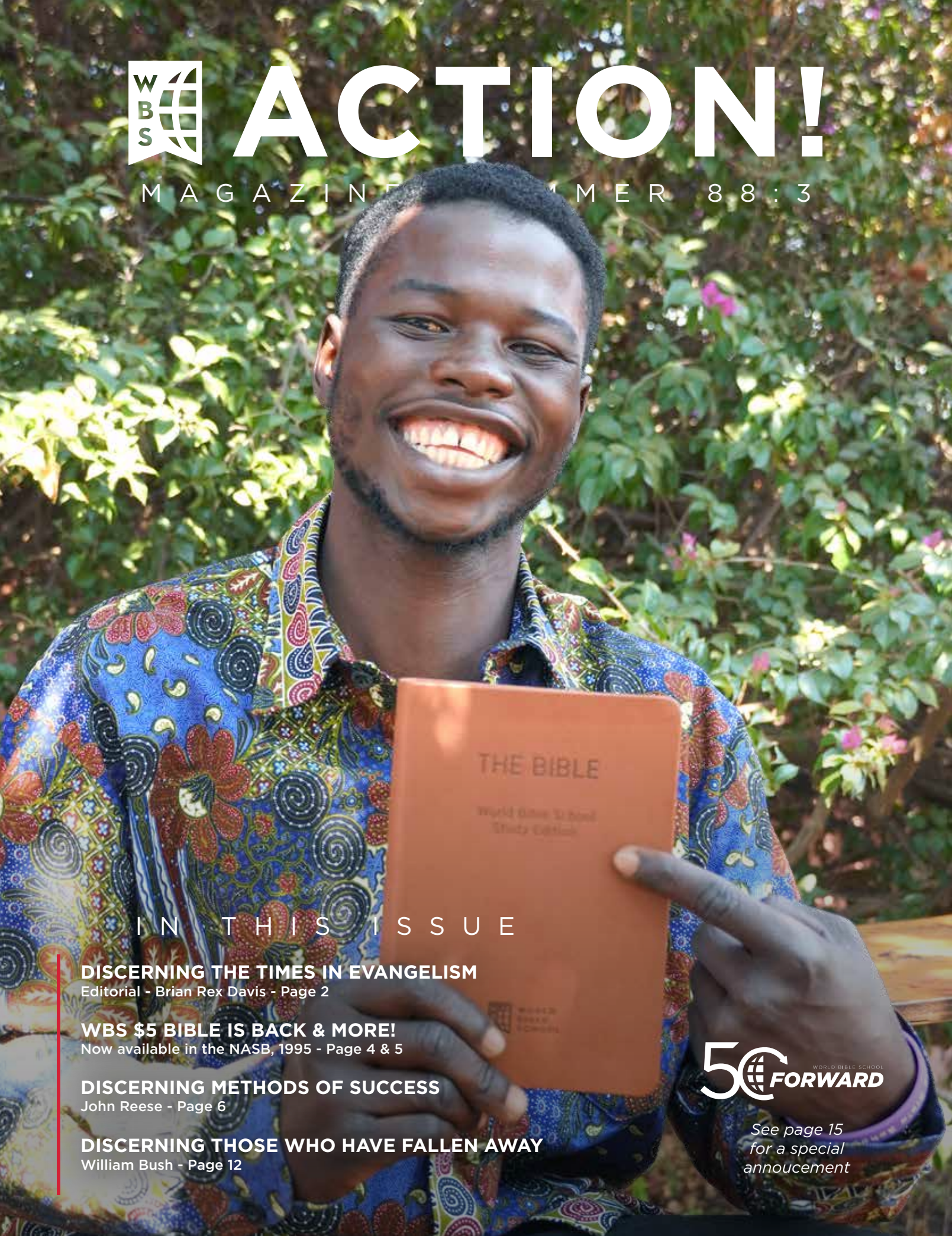
ACTION!

MAGAZINE SUMMER 88:3



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Discerning the Times

in Evangelism

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

"Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?" **Matthew 16:3 NASB**

Jesus, during His sojourn on earth, asked the religious leaders of Israel this question. Moving forward to today, we might ask ourselves, "Have I ever spent any time trying to discern the signs of the times as a Christian?"

I want to attempt to do so from the perspective of an evangelist, considering the world in which we live and how best to be about our Father's business of seeking and saving the lost.

I approach this discernment from a very personal standpoint. I have two sons who are growing into leaders of the Lord's church. How will I model and communicate this responsibility to them? The picture below provides an image of one important truth that I want my sons to realize. There is a ditch on both sides of the road. The only safe path is on the road.

This world is enamored with extremes and outrage. In the life of Christians and the church, many are being drawn into one ditch or the other, when we would be better served by considering a goal of aiming for Biblical center. Rather than reacting with outrage at extremes—and perhaps ending up in the opposite ditch—we would be wise to remember that God has provided His inspired Word to guide us in the straight and narrow way. His way should be our objective.

Since returning to the United States, I have heard many Christians react against their experience of "legalism" in their earlier life in the Lord's church. I'm truly sorry for their experience and would encourage them with the fact that adding man-made rules and binding them on others (the right ditch) is not from our Lord, but from man (Matthew 23:4). I also encourage them to resist jumping into the opposite ditch in outrage where the authority of Jesus and His apostles is thrown out with the "bath water" (the left ditch).

In the September 1969 issue of Action, Jimmie Lovell and Reuel Lemmons were trying to discern their times for evangelism and seemed to be struggling most with the "right ditch". But what about today?

This brings me to my first discernment for evangelism. The question needs to be considered: Which ditch is the majority of our world (and our nation) struggling with? Though some Christians may have had a negative experience with the "right ditch", by far, our world and nation is awash with the spirit of license "to do what each one wants" rather than allow the authority of Jesus to guide one's life!

What does this mean for evangelism? **The church must resist the cultural inertia of jumping into the left ditch of permissiveness and pursue relentlessly the path of Jesus as our King who has all authority.** Our public and evangelism messages need to communicate the freedom and joy that comes in surrendering to the rule of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1-3). The grace and forgiveness "in Christ" is provided for those who submit willingly to the rule of Christ in their life. This is discipleship.

If we allow ourselves to be driven by the currents of lawless culture in our approach to salvation, worship, the organization of the church, our roles within the church and our morality, we cannot expect to be recognizable as the Lord's church. Our evangelism message and our walk with Jesus needs to be aligned for a world seeking an authentic relationship with Jesus and His church.

Our next generation is highly distrustful of "religion". The popular philosophy of relativism – where everyone has their "personal truth" – has created a generation who sees inconsistency as hypocrisy. This next generation is becoming weary of standing in intellectual quicksand. They are looking for a rock on which to stand. Let's introduce them to the rock known as Jesus (1 Cor. 10:4).

My second discernment for evangelism is related to the first. As a missionary, I am used to discovering how to communicate the Gospel in the "heart language" of the community in which I serve. Often this entails finding the "heart words" that accurately convey the teachings of Jesus and motivates the hearer to follow Him. **Sometimes we are tempted to get this process confused with compromising the message to make it easier for the hearer to accept.** Heart-language communication should never lead to a compromised message. We are ambassadors of a King entrusted with the Divine Word. We must faithfully deliver it (2 Cor. 5:20).

Toward this end, one of the most influential Biblical principles in my life has been that of the Restoration Plea. I'm not talking about an event in history, although it has certainly sparked those. Rather, I am talking about the Biblical principle of striving to grow into the ideal of the Christian life and of the Lord's Church and mission as revealed in Holy Scripture. This is the Restoration Plea taught in the Bible (2 Cor. 13:8-14 ESV). I want my two sons to discover the "heart words" of this beautiful and simple thought for their generation!

Every leader of World Bible School has discerned this Biblical principle for their time. Jimmie Lovell (Action, Aug 1962), Reuel Lemmons (Action, Sept 1984), Tex Williams (Action, Oct 1994), and John Reese (Action!, July 2017) have compellingly promoted the Restoration Plea in Action! Magazine.

Personally, I can not imagine NOT having the beauty of simple, New Testament Christianity as my aspiration. Yes, it is a Christian aspiration that is easier said than done, but so worthwhile. Settling for less just leads to earthly religion for which I am not willing to expend my life.

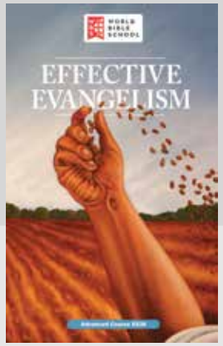
My third discernment for evangelism in our time is the very purpose for which WBS began: to motivate and equip a global network of Christians to use interactive Bible studies effectively. As Jimmie Lovell used to say, **"We must become people of ACTION!"** Over the last 50 years, we have been blessed with incredible evangelism tools that will teach us to teach, will pair us with a seeker asking for Bible study, will teach in a way that reaches even those who know nothing about God or His Word, with sensitivity and love and will help pursue Follow-up as we network with evangelists around the world.

We are always tempted to grow numb to the plight of those who do not yet know Jesus. Let us rather commit to love them as did Jesus! If you are reading this, can you encourage someone or some congregation to take ACTION and help us involve more Christians with WBS? Your ACTION makes all the difference!

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE WBS RESOURCES

Scan the QR code or visit worldbibleschool.net/resources to gain access to wide variety of evangelism resources.

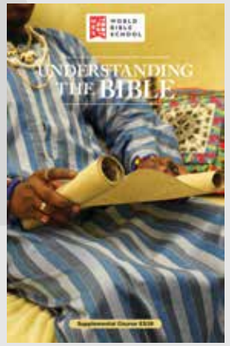
Browse our Master Series courses, WBS Study Edition Bibles, Bible curriculum, Student recruitment resources, resources for WBS Coordinators and more!



Effective Evangelism

Under the New Covenant of Christ, God calls us to evangelize. That is, to tell other of the Good News of Jesus. This course guides Christians in the effective Biblical pattern of personal evangelism, answering the question, "How do we turn many to righteousness?"

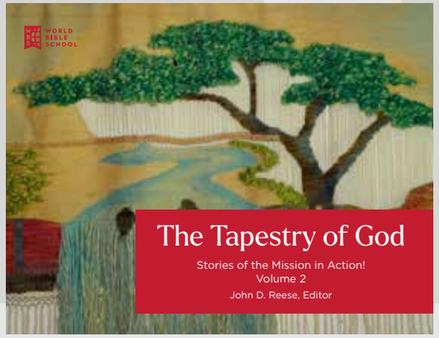
Preorder now!
13 Lessons, 96 pages, $0.80



Understanding the Bible

When you open the Bible, or hear it read, do you understand it? In Acts 8:31, an Ethiopian responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" In *Understanding the Bible,* each lesson begins with aspects of the Ethiopians story to guide us into a better understanding of God's Word.

Preorder now!
13 Lessons, 96 pages, $0.80



The Tapestry of God
Stories of the Mission in Action! - Volume 2

The Tapestry of God is our thanks to the Lord and to you for the first 50 years of WBS. It includes a detailed timeline of the remarkable development of WBS. Tapestry celebrates God's work in leaders and faithful workers like you. More than that, it stirs the imagination for what God will do in the next 50 years. Packed with inspiring stories—including some of the best from Action! Magazine—Tapestry is our tribute to the past and it reflects our assurance for the future.

Available now, $10.00
or donate $1,000 or more to our Match and Challenge (see p. 15)

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL
世界圣经学校
WBS Master Series Courses
Side-by-side English and Mandarin Chinese

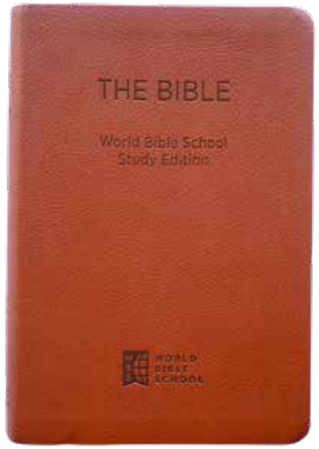
WBS Master Series in Mandarin Chinese

Looking to share the Gospel in China or in Chinese communities?

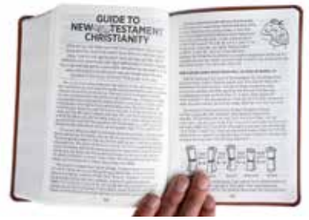
Download the side-by-side English and Mandarin Chinese PDFs of the WBS Master Series coorespondence courese.

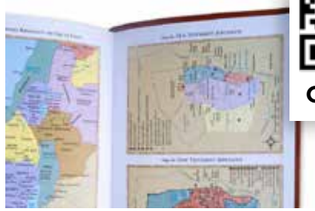
Download now for FREE!

THE WBS STUDY EDITION $5 BIBLE IS BACK!



NASB, 1995





Order Now!

World Bible School is pleased to announce our warehouse is now fully stocked with the brand new **WBS NASB Study Edition Bible**, using the 1995 New American Standard Bible text.

It is now available for only $5!

Since we first began publishing our unique Bibles, WBS and churches of Christ have distributed over 550,000 to seekers around the world.

Congregations, missionaries, ministries and everyday Christians have used WBS Study Bibles in a variety of ways:

- Incentives for WBS Students
- Baptismal Gifts
- Graduation Gifts
- Benevolence recipients
- Pew Bibles
- Campaigns
- Gifts for family and friends
- Prison ministry

WHY THIS WBS STUDY BIBLE?

The New American Standard Bible (NASB-1995) is a literal translation in modern English. It meets the high standards of WBS for accuracy, readability and reputation.

This new WBS Study Edition Bible contains:

- Larger page and font size
- Introductions to the Books of the Bible
- Eight full-color Old and New Testament maps.

Of course, the WBS Study Bible retains the highly-touted WBS Study Helps that:

- Equip current and next generations to pursue truth in a post-modern world
- Teach the principles of New Testament Christianity—including one's faith and baptism response to the Gospel
- Integrate with the WBS Master Series courses—encouraging continued personal study
- Sensitively lead non-Christians to consider Biblical truths
- Include a helpful chronological daily Bible reading plan.

The WBS Study Bible is attractive, durable and inexpensive—only $5 each! Order now at worldbibleschool.net/bible or scan the QR code.

Discerning Methods

of Success

BY JOHN REESE
SEARCY, ARKANSAS
PRESIDENT EMERITUS

As we celebrate 50 Forward, you have seen the astounding figures—conservatively, some 40 million worldwide have received World Bible School lessons. Many thousands have responded to the Gospel. In nation after nation, many of today's leaders first came to know Christ and His church through WBS. What is the secret of World Bible School's success?

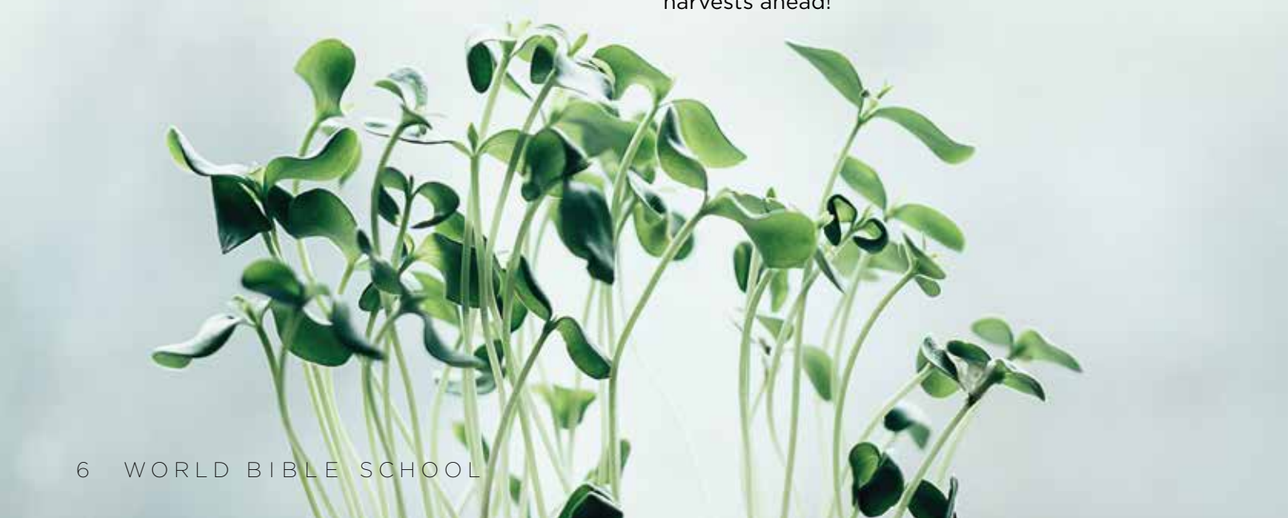
Paul spoke of evangelism in these terms: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6). The increase comes from God and rebounds to His glory. Yes, He works through humans, but they are not "anything," just "jars of clay" (1 Corinthians 3:7; 2 Corinthians 4:7). The power is not in us. Rather, God placed His divine power into the seed that is planted and watered.

Whatever our evangelistic methods, the only seed of success is the living Word of God with its kernel the Gospel (Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Romans 1:16). That truth explains the success of WBS. WBS courses direct the Student to focus on the Scriptures—often printed in our booklets in red for visual emphasis. God's Word does the teaching. Course after course presents the Gospel and offers its invitation. The seed germinates in receptive hearts that yield multiplied harvests.

The WBS difference is how much seed is sown and where. Seed carries life. But, powerful as is the potential, nothing happens while the seed remains in a bag on a shelf. It must be distributed. To sow on a small patch of ground is to assure a small harvest. If the seed is spread abundantly, covering much land, the harvest is greater. Following this principle, WBS mobilizes thousands of seed sowers. They cast so broadly that the good soil becomes evident. That is, the most receptive regions of the world respond well, which attracts more sowing and even greater harvests.
That does not imply neglect for other regions. WBS Students are found in virtually every nation on earth. Often, when the first missionaries arrive in new or difficult areas, converts already reached through distance learning are assembled as the first congregations.

God works through seed sowers like WBS teachers. He also works through His servants who water and nurture for greater fruitfulness. We call this Follow-up. Over a 50-year history, WBS has built up many partnerships and networks of Christians who help with Student recruitment and Follow-up. In our new method of Ocean Bridge, we seek to improve lesson turnaround and thus Student retention. With your help, we are in the beginning stages of learning how to best pursue Follow-up for these Students.

The ultimate partnership is with God Himself. In the case of WBS, He has positioned it for even greater fruitfulness in the years ahead. He provides the workers and the means for wider, more efficient distribution of the Gospel seed. This is God's mission. He directs it. He empowers His saving seed. These truths assure us that the first 50 years are the first fruits that herald even greater harvests ahead!



Ocean Bridge UPDATE

BY TIM YAEGER
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Students studying Ocean Bridge courses at a school in Nigeria.

Godwin Isaac (left) with the WBS Service Center staff in Lagos, Nigeria.

First Ocean Bridge Students to graduate in Nigeria.

God has been blessing WBS Students and Study Helpers through the efforts of Ocean Bridge. We continue to see stunning turnaround of graded lessons and the next courses delivered. Some recruiting areas are warming up and have not reached their full potential, but they are heading in the right direction.

In correlation, we also see a greater number of requests for baptisms. Because of this increase in Follow-up need, we have dispatched WBS representatives in various Ocean Bridge countries to address questions, create additional networking connections and implement plans of action.

Ron Pottberg, our most experienced international staff member and **Godwin Isaac**, our coordinator for Nigeria, traveled to Accra, Ghana. They worked together with our Ghana Ocean Bridge Service Center to collaborate on recruitment strategies, logistics and processes.

Brian and Sondra Davis traveled to Lagos, Nigeria, to meet with the Essien School of Preaching—a school affiliated with Sunset International Bible Institute—to coordinate Student recruitment and Follow-up with them. During this visit an entirely new office in Uyo was officially opened. Brian also spoke at the Great Workshop conference of over 600 church leaders who wanted to know how to help Follow-up with Ocean Bridge Students and plug new converts into their congregations. Brian and Sondra, along with 25 WBS Study Helpers, have been pursuing the same goals in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Phil and Elaine Palmer, long-time missionaries to East Africa, were sent to Kenya to meet with leaders, school administrations and Students requesting baptism. Certain schools do not allow us to baptize at their facilities, but Phil found good cooperation with school administrators, allowing him to contact Students and their families to organize Follow-up meetings. Phil and company patiently taught and introduced the Students to local evangelists of the churches of Christ and assisted in baptism when appropriate.

As Ocean Bridge is a new system, we spent most of our initial efforts making the recruiting and teaching system work, with more improvements coming later this year. Now, we are urgently working on getting Follow-up systems to work well and developing a mutual communication process by which churches and Study Helpers can get timely feedback on how the Follow-ups are going.

Are you experiencing international postal delays? Contact us today to discuss the requirements and how to start Ocean Bridge with your congregation.

A Tribute to

Discernment in Accountability

BY MARCUS MCKEE
LEWISVILLE, TEXAS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In 2 Corinthians 8:18-21, Paul explains to the church in Corinth that he is doing things to ensure that no one can accuse him, and those with him, of wasting the money donated for the church in Jerusalem. He says, "We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men" (NIV 1984).

This is a principle of discernment in accountability that WBS has embraced since its beginning! We have been blessed to have wonderful Godly servants serve as Comptroller, who embraced Paul's words. Dot Bradley and Gale Scott were diligent in the earlier years to lay a foundation of accountability in line with Paul's statement. Over the last 10 years, WBS has been fortunate to have Lori Brady serve as Comptroller. She solidified and refined our accounting and human resources processes and procedures by building on the solid foundation laid by Dot and Gale.

Lori Brady retired from WBS at the end of March 2024 and will be missed dearly! She was such a vital part of the WBS family and worked hard to pass on this culture of accountability to Kelsey Taylor, who took over upon Lori's retirement. We are grateful and extend our heartfelt thanks to Lori for all her wonderful years of service and welcome Kelsey as part of the WBS Family as she continues the tradition laid by Dot, Gale and Lori to ensure that we at WBS are glorifying God through our use of the funds provided by our generous donors. We are excited to see what the next 50 years forward will hold!

Lori Brady at the 2023 Managers Retreat

Lori Brady with Savanah, Sheryl and Debbie at the WBS 2022 staff meeting.

Lori Brady with Kelsey Taylor at the 2023 WBS Austin Benefit Dinner.

Lori Brady with Debbie, Sheryl, Sondra, Sherri and Kami at the WBS Office.

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DISCERNING THE NEXT GENERATION

Sometimes, ministries of the church can inadvertently become locked in time. The world changes around us requiring new tools for a timeless message. Generations struggle to bridge the communication gap. As World Bible School is dedicated to one of the timeless teachings of Jesus, namely **EVAGELISM**, we feel an urgent commitment to ensure that WBS empowers the next generation to share Jesus with the world.

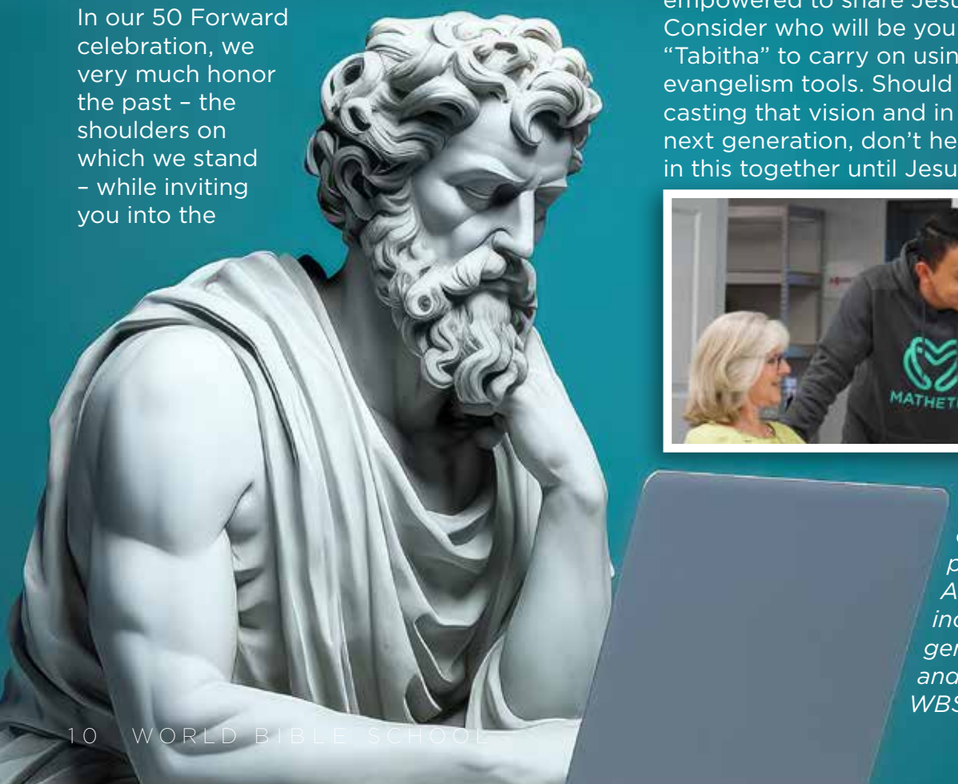
This can be seen in our commitment to tools crafted for the time in which we live. This can be seen in the updating of the look and feel of WBS tools in order to avoid the perception of being locked in the past.

In our 50 Forward celebration, we very much honor the past – the shoulders on which we stand – while inviting you into the forward-leaning goals of the next 50 years.

We believe that continuing into the next generation is a choice. And we ask you to make that choice with us. We also believe that this choice must be a prayer just as Jesus prayed for next generations.

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21 ESV).

Consider with us how to help your next generation at your congregation be empowered to share Jesus with WBS tools. Consider who will be your "Timothy" or "Tabitha" to carry on using these powerful evangelism tools. Should you need help in casting that vision and in connecting with your next generation, don't hesitate to call. We are in this together until Jesus comes!



God has answered our prayers with people like George Achard, who brings incredible "next generation" energy and creativity to the WBS team!

WBS Online Follow-up Story

Jevin and his wife in Namibia

Online Student, Jevin, from Namibia, completed the Master Series in April 2024. He had previously been "baptized" as a baby but after studying with WBS, he realized his need for proper faith and baptism into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins.

Jevin's Online Study Helper, Janna, from Abilene, Texas, submitted him for Follow-up. John, a WBS volunteer Follow-up Partner who travels through Namibia about once a month, connected with Jevin in June. Upon arrival, John baptized not only Jevin, but also his wife and a student from the University of Namibia who had been traveling with John on the way to Namibia.

Jevin sent this message to Janna, "I am writing to tell you that my wife and I were baptized on 7 June 2024 in the cold of winter, and it was a great experience. Thank you for walking this road with us and guiding us. We are very grateful and looking forward to the road ahead. Thank you and thank God. AMEN."

EDITOR: BRIAN REX DAVIS
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A 50 Forward Look Back

A Street Car Named ...?

WBS has never been shy about trying new and innovative approaches to sharing Jesus! From the July 1988 ACTION issue, Robert Marshall, of the West Coast Center of WBS in California reported that the painting of a street car in Hong Kong for WBS Student recruitment was completed.

Missionary Jack McGhee, who came up with the idea, was excited to see Students writing in and requesting studies. This street car circulated a major route through Hong Kong for six months.

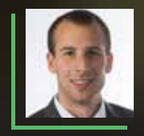
We are forever grateful to the WBS West Coast team and board who served so many years with incredible effectiveness – people like Patsie & Doug Trowbridge, Jake and Wilma Coppinger and Joel & Pat Coppinger, Howard & Margaret Cox, giants of the faith every one!

We Are Seeking WBS Follow-up Helpers

Looking for more ways to get involved with WBS? By helping with WBS Follow-up, we would contact you when a WBS Student in your local or targeted area requests baptism, a one-on-one Bible study or to locate a congregation near them. We are seeking volunteeers both in the U.S. and internationally.

Visit worldbibleschool.net/follow-up to learn more!

Discerning Those Who Have Fallen Away



BY WILLIAM BUSH
SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE
CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Our mission at World Bible School is to share Jesus with the world by motivating and equipping a global network of Christians to use interactive Bible studies effectively.

Since God desires that *all should reach repentance* (2 Peter 3:9), our mission includes both those who have never known Christ and those who have fallen away.

Help WBS Reach the Fallen!

We are currently developing a new Mathetis Original course and "Reaching Series" Bible class curriculum to equip Christians with tools to reach those who have fallen away.

Will you help us produce the next Mathetis Original course? We are seeking to raise $250,000 to produce the Mathetis course, videos and Bible class curriculum. Give now at **worldbibleschool.net/give** or call **512-345-8190.**

Discerning the Fallen

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus compares hearing the *Word of God* with a *Sower* who plants seed in various soils (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8). Jesus describes good fertile soil as one who *understands the Word, accepts it and bears fruit*. Yet Jesus also teaches of three other soils (or hearts), which do not bear fruit. The *path* refers to one who *does not understand or believe*. The *rocky ground* illustrates someone who falls away after facing *tribulation or persecution*. The soil with *thorns* describes someone who *proves unfruitful* due to *seeking the riches, desires and cares of this world* over God.

Do you know anyone who left their faith in Christ because of false teaching, a misunderstanding of God's Word or simply did not believe in Christ or His promises? You might know others who initially believed the message of Christ, but when faced with trials and struggles they lost their faith. We also commonly see brothers and sisters who leave Christ because they chose to prioritize the things of this world over their relationship with God.

Reaching the Fallen

When reaching the fallen, it's best to remember the first and greatest commandments: *to love God and love your neighbor* (Matthew 22:37-39). *You who are spiritual should restore the fallen in a spirit of gentleness, speaking the truth in love* (Galatians 6:1, Ephesians 4:14). If we love God, we will also love our fallen brothers or sisters as God does (1 John 4:7-21). We must remember *love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

As we show love, our main objective should be to *gain back our brother* so their *spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord* (Matthew 18:15, 1 Corinthians 5:5).

To those who sin against us, Jesus commands us to *go and tell him his faults between you and him alone*. If they refuse to repent, *take one or two others with you* and if they continue to refuse repentance *tell it to the church*. If they continue to reject you and the church, the person is to be to you *as a Gentile and a tax collector* (Matthew 18:15-20).

But pause for a minute. Have you ever noticed in Matthew 18 and Luke 15, Matthew chooses to share Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep right before Jesus' instructions we just read regarding those who sin against us, but Luke chose to share the parable immediately after the Pharisees complained Jesus was eating with *tax collectors and sinners*? At the end of The Lost Sheep, Jesus says, "*There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance*" (Luke 15:7). Jesus lovingly sought sinners and tax collectors to repent like a shepherd seeking his lost sheep. He would go to their house, eat with them and encourage them to repent in hopes they would choose to enter into a new relationship with Him. For those who sin against us, we should seek to restore our relationship with them, just as Jesus did.

What about those who do not sin against us directly, but simply leave the faith? *My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins* (James 5:19-20). *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness* (Galatians 6:1). When seeking the fallen, show the same love and earnesty of Jesus and the shepherd in compassion and gentleness.

In the Corinthian church, Paul addressed a brother *practicing sexual immorality that was not tolerated even among the pagans*. What's worse, the church was approving of his actions. Therefore, Paul wrote, "*do not associate with anyone who bears the name of brother, who is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler*" (1 Corinthians 5:1, 9-11).

It's important to *remove* or *purge any* unrepentant *evil from inside the church* (1 Corinthians 5:2, 12). But this does not mean we *treat them as an enemy, but warn them as a brother* (2 Thessalonians 3:15). The practice of disfellowship is not intended to be final punishment or justice. *Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord* (Romans 12:19). Rather, we are to encourage the guilty party to recognize their sins and repent (1 Corinthians 5:5, 12-13). If they seek restoration, we must *turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him* (2 Corinthians 2:7-8).

God also calls us to pray. *If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life* (1 John 5:16). *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working* (James 5:15-16).

Would a Christian feel comfortable confessing their sins to you? To follow God's command to pray, we must show proper love to our Christian family so they can share their struggles with us. When we confess our sins, not only can we receive forgiveness, it can also help prevent us from falling away.

As we seek to reach those who have fallen away let us 1) conduct ourselves in love and gentleness, 2) seek the fallen earnestly, 3) warn them as a brother and 4) pray, confessing our sins to one another. Let us show the same *mercy, grace, slowness of anger, steadfast love and forgiveness* which our Father in Heaven also extends to us (Exodus 34:6-7).

2024 MATCH AND CHALLENGE
WBS KEY INITIATIVES

GEORGE BARLOW
AUSTIN, TEXAS
CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

A Call to Action

As Paul the apostle said, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20 NASB). Inspired by these words, we ask you to consider how you can contribute to this mission. Paul did not undervalue the power that God has in our lives. This power works in those who are in Christ and if you're reading this, I'm sure it's you who God is speaking to. Whether through acts of kindness, sharing your talents and resources, or offering your time, every contribution helps further Jesus' mission.

As Jimmie Lovell did 50 years ago, we want to inspire the Lord's church to go above and beyond this year's Match and Challenge goal. Together, we can do more in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. We invite you, our brothers and sisters, to follow these committed visionaries. Let us aim higher and reach further than we ever imagined!

Ocean Bridge

World Bible School has traditionally relied on international postal systems to deliver our Bible correspondence courses. Since postal systems in some parts of the world are struggling, we have embraced new technologies to continue sharing the Gospel around the world. With the support of numerous congregations and individuals, we have developed a solution called Ocean Bridge, which is now operational in seven countries, soon to be nine. This new way of teaching allows WBS Coordinators to digitally scan and send graded lessons to WBS. We have tailored systems in each country, partnering with preachers, schools of preaching, prisons and secondary schools to deliver lessons to Students. This leads to productive teaching with fast turn around and high retention rates, increasing the likelihood of Students obeying the Gospel. *Read more about Ocean Bridge on page 7.*

Mathetis

Mathetis is dedicated to providing interactive Bible courses for group study online by combining high-quality video content with engaging lessons. This unique platform fosters a safe, online environment where participants of all ages can deepen their faith and knowledge together.

One common concern, especially from parents and grandparents, is whether we offer lessons that address young people who have wandered away from their faith and can help them find their way back home. We understand the importance of this issue and are committing to developing a new Mathetis course and Bible class curriculum to help share compelling ways of asking those who have wandered to reconsider their first love. When finished, this project will cost $250,000 to create and deploy. This is a big investment, but to what lengths will we not go for guiding our children and grandchildren safely home to Jesus? *Read more about the upcoming Mathetis Original course and Bible class curriculum page 12.*

New Markets - India & Asia

We have long desired to cast our nets more effectively in the burgeoning populations of India and Asia. Our president, Brian Rex Davis, is planning a trip to India early next year to explore with church leaders how best WBS tools can better aid evangelism in that vast country. John Reese is working on ways to provide Gospel study opportunities in vast parts of Asia.

Plans are being developed, in cooperation with missionaries in the field, to deploy an Easier-to-Read Master Series in English. We are also exploring translating the Master Series in several other languages in Asia and India. Literally billions of people can be offered the Gospel message through this expansion of our efforts.

How to Get Involved

Prayerfully consider your gift. Reflect on how you can support this mission financially. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us reach our goal.

Spread the word. Share this exciting opportunity with your friends, family, and church community. Encourage others to join us in this important work.

Stay engaged. Follow our updates to see how your contributions are making a difference. Your involvement and support are invaluable to us and to those we serve.

To discuss these initiatives, our goals or opportunity for involvement, give me a call at **(737) 301-2632**.

Together, let's make 2024 a year of unprecedented outreach and transformation. With faith and unity, we can trust in God's ability to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think!

50 WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL FORWARD

Over the last few months, a handful of dedicated families have generously pledged a total of $1.43 million. These families give these matching and challenge funds to encourage us in giving to make Jesus and His Gospel known to our world.

JOIN THE 2024 MATCH & CHALLENGE

SPECIAL WBS DONORS HAVE CHALLENGED YOU TO GIVE

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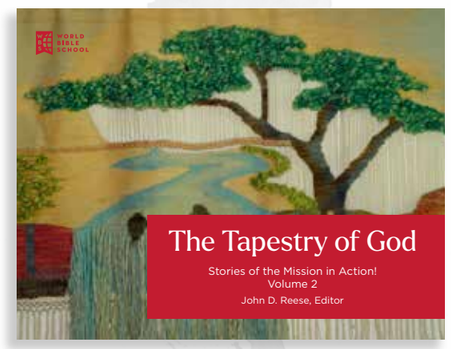

The Tapestry of God, a beauitfully illustrated book which displays God's work as a masterpiece in the making. God weaves people and events from successive generations, diverse cultures and separate continents to fulfill good works.

God's artistic plan is ongoing and we are part of it. Looking back, we recognize the genius and power of divine providence and catch glimpses of the truth that God "works all things according to the counsel of His will" and "we are His workmanship" (Ephesians 1:11; 2:10).

Tapestry is our thanks to the Lord and to you for the first 50 years of WBS. It includes a detailed timeline of the remarkable development of WBS. It is packed with inspiring stories—including some of the best from Action! Magazine.

God is weaving us together, and the completed tapestry will be truly awesome and eternal in its surpassing beauty. Give today or order the book online at worldbibleschool.net/tapestry.

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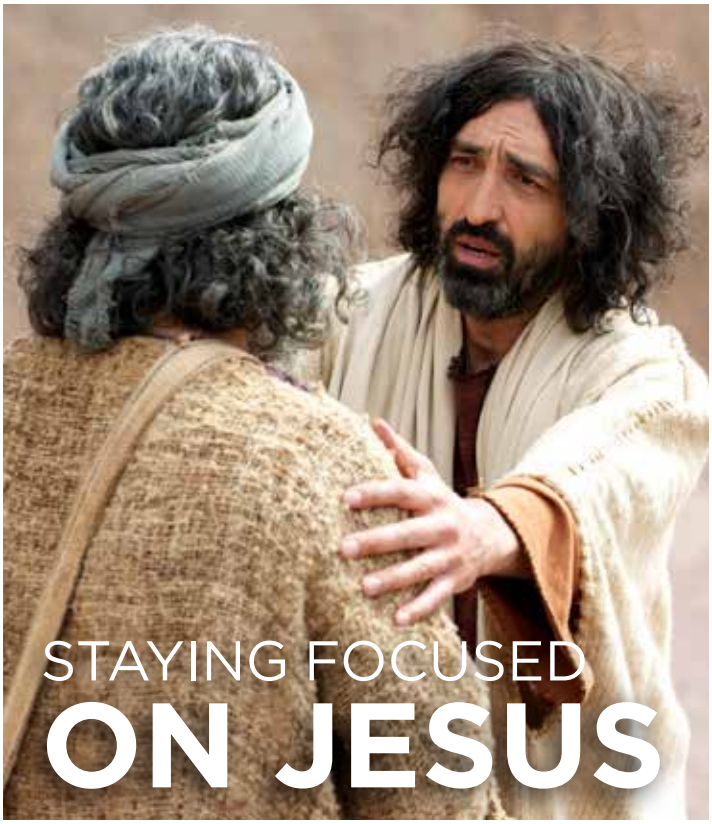

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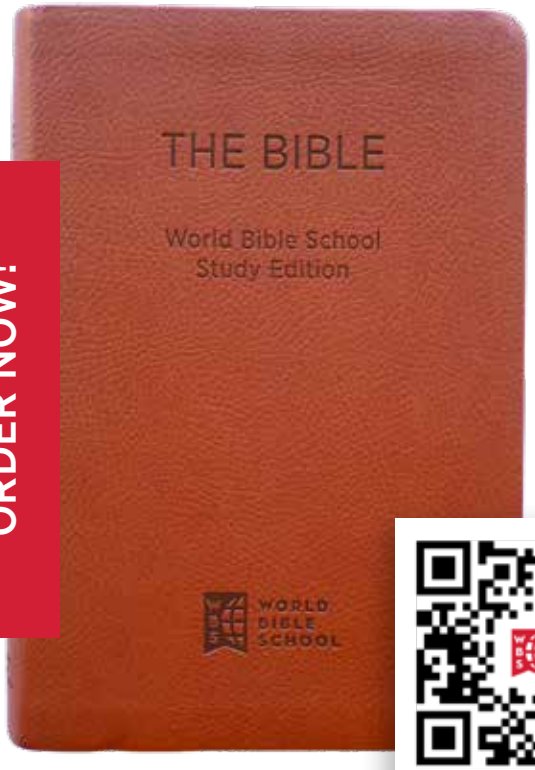

WBS $5 BIBLE IS BACK!

The WBS Study Edition Bible (NASB, 1995) contains the WBS Study Notes to encourage individual study or for use in personal or group Bible studies.

NEW features to the WBS Study Edition Bible include:

1) A larger page size and larger font
2) Introductions to the Books of the Bible
3) Eight full-color Old and New Testament maps

The WBS NASB Study Edition Bible still includes the WBS Study Notes in the back to help guide its readers into a knowledge of the Gospel. Learn more on page 5 or scan the QR code to order now!

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