



Relationships

WBS is all about partnering.

In June I visited Lubbock on the way to New Mexico for Red River Family Encampment (see page 6) and was privileged to attend the funeral of Charlie Huffman (see page 5). One of the speakers was Truitt Adair, Executive Director of Sunset International Bible Institute. At Charlie's prior request, Truitt highlighted the theme: co-workers. Truitt and Charlie shared the same relationship as Paul and Epaphroditus who was called "my brother and fellow worker and fellow

soldier" (Philippians 2:25). Truitt pointed out that the Greek word for fellow worker is *sunergos* from which we get English words like *synergy* and *synergism*, defined as "the interaction or cooperation of two or more agents, to produce a combined result greater than the sum of their separate effects."

What a privilege beyond compare to confess, with 1 Corinthians 3:9, "We are God's fellow workers!"

That aptly describes this issue's long-planned theme: Relationship!—in this case, *partnerships with congregations and sister-ministries*. (November's issue will emphasize individual relationships.) As Truitt said, we can do so much more *together*. Some ministries lean toward isolationism. For them, high-lighting a

"competing" ministry would be foolish. Some congregations are similarly territorial. Paranoid leaders keep out all other influences (3 John 1:10).

If you follow *Action!* you know how often we promote others. Why? Because World Bible School *is* partnership, sharing the mission of sharing Jesus! Is this truly a work of the body of Christ? Then the parts of the body should function together under the Head, as any healthy body does (1 Corinthians 12). But what about protecting turf? Our role is to seek God's Kingdom first, not petty fiefdoms. Do that, and God fulfills His role to provide generously, far beyond anything we can imagine, or devise by self-interested strategies.

Indeed, as Truitt pointed out from 1 Thessalonians 3:2, the Christian's highest honor is to be "God's coworker." He is the source of real success. What a blessing to join hands for the Great Commission! What a privilege beyond compare to confess, with 1 Corinthians 3:9, "We are God's fellow workers!"



in this
issue

- p2 Relationships
- p3 2017 match & challenge
- p4-5 Tributes
- p6-7 Partnerships & friends
- p8 Enhance your missions

Relationships in Botswana

Dennis Malepa has been a strong influence for the Lord's church in Southern Africa and a friend to WBS for many years. Sometimes called "the lion of Africa"—reflecting his bold preaching style—Dennis directs the Africa Center for Theological Studies in Gabarone, Botswana.

Earlier this year, Dennis received a request from an American WBS teacher to follow up on a student, Balebetse Moloko. As founding pastor of Faith Life Ministries, Balebetse had clicked a Google ad and registered to study with WBS. Four years later, he completed enough courses to learn the Way more accurately. Here is a summary of what he wrote to his teacher:



Malepa family in Botswana

In 1995, I gave my life to the Lord, but I was not baptized with water because the pastor approved what I had done with the Jehovah's Witnesses. However, when I read [in WBS Bible courses] about baptism of water, I realized they were wrong in saying it was just a symbol. Instead, we are to die with Him and be raising [sic] again with Him.

At Balebetse's request, his teacher submitted his information to the WBS online follow-up system. As a WBS partner, Dennis Malepa soon reported back:

Balebetse Moloko was baptized by elder Dennis Malepa of Broadhurst church of Christ in the presence of preacher Osupeng of the Moshupa church of Christ. To God be the glory. Our brother also has taught his church members who will be baptized this coming Saturday, God willing.

Balebetse taught his former group, and the congregation changed its name to honor Christ. Later, Balebetse requested to become a WBS teacher. In our questionnaire, he wrote the following:

continued on page 6

Partnering with Prisons: They Taught Themselves!

The new WBS Bible is so popular that WBS recently ran out of supply, and, for a short period, we had to take back orders. Fortunately we had seen the trends and had worked fast to place the next order (50,000, some going directly from China to Africa and Australia). The shipment to Austin replenished the necessary stocks for keeping up with high demand.

About the time of this shipment, we received the following message showing the amazing usefulness of this Bible:

Bill [Colwell],

This morning we baptized 26 men. Many of them taught themselves with the WBS study Bibles we have been handing out. Many were taught by others that we taught and baptized by WBS last year. It was breathtaking to see the Spirit work.

Our primary evangelistic tool is the WBS Master Series courses as well as the new WBS ESV compact Bible. In the back of this [imitation] leather-bound Bible is material related to the entire Master series with other helps. These are also very beneficial in the Segregation and Restricted Housing units as they are soft-bound and allowable. As of this date, we have distributed 250 such Bibles. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Many thanks, brother,

Bill Lewis with Dan Kafka at Holyoke prison ministry, CO.

Editor's Note: *Be advised that different penal systems have different rules about acceptable printed materials. Some systems require glued binding as compared with stitched. WBS is researching matters of compliance so as to be useful to a wide range of prison ministries.*



Relationships with the Young

We count it a blessing to have been introduced to a remarkable young lady, age 14, who writes a regular column for her local newspaper. Life has been hard for her, and her column shares concerns and solutions with other kids in similar circumstances. She actively partners with World Bible School to bring healing to suffering families. Below is an adapted excerpt from a recent column.



Kids are important to me, and they're important to Jesus, too (Matthew 18:10). He cares about kids whose parents are drug addicts and alcoholics; kids who are suffering abuse and neglect; and kids who are victims of bullying. Hey, kids like me! Did you know Jesus told us to, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15)? You may be thinking, "But, I'm just a kid!" Well, I'm a kid, too, but I found a way to do it!

One of my goals was to have a Bible correspondence course to help kids, and parents, learn about Jesus! My great-grandmother was a World Bible School (WBS) correspondence teacher. She had students all over the world, mainly in Africa. I have heard that her large dining room table was covered with WBS lessons most of the time. I didn't get to know her, but I have pictures of her holding me when I was a baby. I just wish she knew that WBS is partnering with me to help people know

continued on page 6

Let's Invest *Directly* in Evangelism



We were created for relationships. When God created man, He knew we were not meant to be alone. He made the wonderful bond of marriage. Long before time, God planned the church for relationships. While Ephesians 5 gives great counsel about our marital relationships, it also reminds us, "Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her..." That fact makes His church uniquely special and sets in motion relationships that will endure eternally.

In the last *Action!* we introduced the \$500K Match/Challenge for 2017. What a powerful example of relationships at work! A committed group of donors has pledged to lead the way. They are offering \$500,000 as a Match and Challenge to be met by you, their partners in

the Gospel. When that amount is met, the total contribution from this drive for souls will be \$1,000,000!

Most exciting, that \$1,000,000 applies to reaching 1,000,000 new students in 2017. This is direct evangelism: *Christians teaching the lost!* They start where seekers are, using proven,

Imagine you and your local church helping to generate \$1,000,000 for 1,000,000 souls.

interactive Bible courses. They refer the most responsive to personal follow up. The Lord honors such relationships, bringing thousands to Christ, and forming many new congregations.

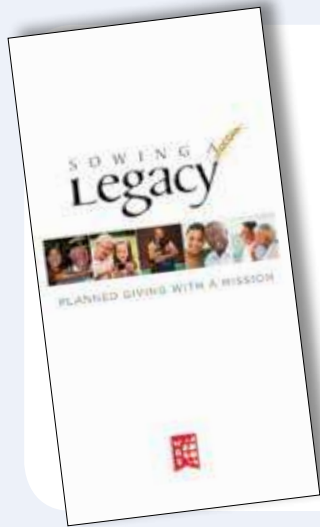
Imagine you and your local church helping to generate \$1,000,000 for reaching 1,000,000 souls. We are seeking church leaders to say,



"Yes, we want to be part of something big and effective," and to be able to say, "Our congregation was part of the WBS million dollar drive to reach a million people in 2017!"

Join the brotherhood in making a real difference. What better way to steward your funds than by fulfilling the Great Commission? The mission is alive and well, and waiting for your partnership. Why wait? Take this opportunity to do something extraordinary. World Bible School is you—and your local church—sharing Jesus!

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



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Contact Kevin Rhodes to request this brochure and to learn more: legacy@worldbibleschool.net; 800-311-2006.



Editor: John Reese

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are ideal ways to pay tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to "share Jesus" with WBS.

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Tribute to Charlie Huffman



At the funeral for Charlie Huffman, his son-in-law Mike Ford told about the many messages of condolence. They repeatedly used words like dedication, integrity, faith and infectious [enthusiasm]. A beloved Brazilian used a Portuguese word meaning inextinguishable

or unstoppable. Story after story illustrated these characteristics.

From the day of his conversion to Christ, Charlie was a missionary, whether locally or to Maine and Washington State or to Brazil. Here is how his 50 year ministry to Brazil began: Charlie and his wife Joyce helped to initiate a number of now familiar youth camps. At Camp Yamhill, he challenged the high school seniors to form a mission team and select a nation. After prayer and discussion, on the last day of camp, they announced: "We'll go to Brazil... if you come with us!"

Thus, in 1967, Charlie's family with six other families moved by ship to Belo Horizonte. Time and again, Charlie led the way in faith, taking on challenges that seemed impossible to others. Trials included Joyce's death in Brazil in 1978. For the sake of his children, he returned to Texas. Later, God gave Sandra as Charlie's wife and mission partner, and a blessing for the whole family. Charlie's Brazilian influence grew from local to national and international.

Eventually, he, with partners like Tex Williams, Marcos Sacramento, Ricardo Maia and Daniel Niemar, laid the groundwork for impacting more of the world with World Bible School in the Portuguese language (Escola Biblica Mundiale or EBM). Charlie developed the art of "thinking big." We would do well to live his motto: "Pray and do!"

Editor's Note: *While World Bible School in English has seen regular improvements, WBS in Portuguese (EBM) has not kept pace. Even before Charlie's passing, and stimulated by co-worker for Brazil, Howard Norton, WBS had reviewed the need for EBM to be upgraded to the fully functional level of English WBS. Though not anticipated in this year's budget, it was decided in faith ("Pray and do!") to invest the necessary \$17,000 for a full upgrade of EBM, to be completed by the end of 2017. More will be invested in 2018 to recruit teachers and students in the Portuguese-speaking world including Brazil, Portugal, Angola and Mozambique. If you would like to see Charlie's dream realized more fully for the Great Commission, you, too, can partner with WBS. Send your gift to WBS/EBM, P.O. Box 2169, Cedar Park TX 78630, or go online to worldbibleschool.net/give. Gifts sent now count toward "Match & Challenge 2017" (see page 3).*

Farewell to Doyle Gilliam

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

I first met the Gilliam family in the 1960s. They were missionaries in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Back in America, they shared Jesus' love and teachings with many students at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, TX. While in Malawi, Doyle compiled the detailed *Topical Index of the Bible*, first in chiChewa and then in English. With his permission, World Bible School adapted portions of the *Index* for notes in its blue WBS Bible. That printing was discontinued due to financial constraints around 2008. The new WBS study Bible (ESV) arranges topics around WBS' Master Series, but Doyle's *Index* again proved valuable for the research and development of study notes. Doyle will be greatly missed. But His influence continues, as confirmed by Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.... that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"



B. Shelburne commented, "Doyle and Louise Gilliam were long-time missionaries in Malawi for the mainline churches of Christ. They started work in Northern Malawi about four years before we arrived there in 1961.... Thus began a loving and positive relationship in Malawi which still exists. The Gilliams... are some of the godliest people I know and have impacted countless lives for Christ."



WBS presenters: Jonathan Towell, Ron Pottberg, Bill Colwell and John Reese

Thank You, Red River!

World Bible School sent John and Beth Reese, Bill and Ruth Colwell, Jonathan and Lori Towell, and Ron and Susan Pottberg to this year's Red River Family Encampment in New Mexico. Why such a significant contingent? Because Jerry Lawlis and his fellow-organizers included World Bible School as an emphasis at the 2017 RRFE. Jerry invited John to be the kick-off speaker, launching the theme "I Love to Tell the Story." Additionally, RRFE gave us three class sessions that explored specifics for WBS postal, WBS Internet and WBS Connect (recordings are available at the RRFE web site). A prominent booth was well placed for traffic. The goal was not about WBS itself, but to share practical tools to "Tell the Story"—to evangelize America and the world.

This year's RRFE attracted 1,850 campers, making it a great place for connecting with teachers, sister-ministries, supporters and other partners. Plan to enjoy the fellowship and fun in the Sangre de Cristo mountains at next year's RRFE, June 23-27, 2018.

ATTENDEE FEEDBACK:

The speakers were exceptionally encouraging!
Inspirational song leading! Beautiful singing!
The teachers were very informative...insightful.

The words of comfort and encouragement kept me going all week.

Once again, RRFE blessed my life.

“Because of your Partnership In the Gospel”

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas



At WBS, we are privileged to partner with over 1,300 congregations, thousands of individuals and numerous sister ministries as we

jointly seek to share the saving message of Jesus. In my WBS Church Relations role, I get to be a part of these partnerships “up close and personal” by showing congregations how WBS can help them fulfill the Great Commission, and by improving existing WBS programs.

We cherish these partnerships and want to develop many more like them. In fact, we want to partner with your congregation. So far this

“I thank my God... because of your partnership in the Gospel.” (Philippians 1:3, 5)

year, I have given WBS presentations to 110 congregations (or their members) in 16 states, driving over 16,000 miles in the process. We would love to share with your congregation WBS tools for local and international Gospel impact. Please contact me at 512-345-8190 or bill@worldbibleschool.net to arrange for a WBS visit to your congregation.

We sincerely want to thank you all for your love of the Gospel and for allowing WBS to partner with you in reaching out to a lost world. To borrow from the apostle Paul, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the Gospel...and I am sure...that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:3-6).

Let your Faith take Flight with DiscipleTrips



Jeff Smith — LUBBOCK, Texas

Last year, a shy 16 year old boy went with DiscipleTrips on his first mission experience. In the course of one week, he began to emerge from his shell and learned how to share his faith. One month after his trip to Antigua, he studied with his girlfriend and she was baptized into Christ!

DiscipleTrips plans and leads turnkey mission trips to brotherhood ministries around the world. Our mission is to take people to places and fulfill our God-given purpose to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We assemble teams of small groups and individuals who may have never had the opportunity to go on a mission trip.



Baptism of Deja Miller during a DiscipleTrip

Here’s how it works. First, someone 14 years or older learns about one of our DiscipleTrips to places like Antigua, Belize, Honduras or one of our stateside destinations and applies online at www.discipletrips.com.

The next step in the process enrolls each participant with World Bible School, and the student is assigned two courses in the Master Series. This introduces them to these amazing tools and proves to us they are serious about going on a mission trip. However, they’re not finished yet. The third step is to move from student to WBS teacher and pick two people from the Student Board. Now they are doing mission work from their computer before our DiscipleTrip ever begins! We also try to enroll the people we meet on our trips in WBS to stay engaged with them long after the trip is over.

We are grateful for our partnership with WBS. If you’d like to learn more about DiscipleTrips, or want to join one of our teams, or want help planning a custom trip for your group, you can email Jeff Smith at jeff@discipletrips.com.

Relationships in Botswana from page 2

I knew Christ [through] preachers who came to our village while I was still a boy in 1973. They preached and went away, but I was thirsty for this Jesus. We started a church [but] its name did not bear the name of Christ. In 2013 I found an address about World Bible School and started corresponding. It was not easy because lessons got lost, [so I] started using the online program. I have finished all lessons and I am baptized. I have changed the name from Faith Life Ministries to Faith Life church of Christ. [Those who had not been baptized now are] all baptized in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Thank you Dennis, and now Balebetse—who already has four online students—for partnering powerfully with WBS in the Gospel!

Relationships with the Young from page 2

Jesus loves them! Yay! I am so excited because I’m going to do the same thing my great-grandmother did!

I’m offering WBS Bible correspondence courses (free of charge & postage paid) to all kids like me, everywhere, and their parents, too! Even if you’re not a kid like me, and it doesn’t matter how old you are, if you want to take the WBS courses, just write to me or call, with your name, age and address. I will get you started ASAP! The Children’s Courses are for kids ages 8-12. Teens and adults take the WBS Master Series Courses. I will get them to you through regular mail, email or online through the WBS website: worldbibleschool.org. My goal is to help kids like me, and I want to help their parents, too. Until next time, remember, Jesus Loves You and JESUS IS LORD!

Sharing Jesus Together: Gospel Chariot Missions

George Funk — PERTH, Australia

Amazing how God works! I was baptized in 1984 in South Africa, then went on to study Bible and met missionaries Ron Pottberg and John Reese. In 1993 I started working among the majority populations. Because of my relationship with John and Ron I chose to use World Bible School as a tool. We started planting the Downtown churches of Christ in South Africa. It started slowly, but before we knew it, we had thousands of World Bible School students.

Among our first converts were Machona Monyamane whose teacher was John Morgan and Dimpo Motimele whose teacher was Ray Cox. These two men are powerful preachers and leaders today. We as a ministry are grooming them to take over from me in 2020.

We at Gospel Chariot Missions now have 13 Gospel Chariots and are in the process of building another two. That will total 15 Gospel Chariots

going into 22 countries in Africa. On each Chariot you will see a huge WBS logo. We believe in working with ministries, and WBS is one that we have worked with for 25 years.



George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions

As I like to say, “We don’t compete with other works; we complement or complete other works.”

I have just returned from Kenya and am amazed. Most key leaders I speak to were brought to Christ through WBS. It seems crazy that so many have similar stories. But here is why. These men were young when converted, and now they have matured into responsible roles.

I live in Australia now and commute to Africa. I am planning a three month evangelistic trip around Australia doing follow up and promoting World Bible School Connect. Amazing partnership we have had, and continue to have!

Gospel Wildfire Sparked in a Muslim Community

Jonathan Towell — LUBBOCK, Texas

What price are you willing to pay for your faith? Imagine if, because of your faith in Jesus, you had your home taken, your job lost, and your wife and children kidnapped. Would you hang on?

Lawrence Kanduna, a World Bible School student from Malawi, held on tight. Not only that, Lawrence thrived. He was so compelled by Christ’s resurrection that he couldn’t help but tell his family, friends and neighbors, even while being persecuted.

Joe Brock is Lawrence’s WBS teacher. Joe worships at the Sunset church of Christ in Lubbock. Joe was initially discouraged by the lack of response from his WBS students. But, he kept adopting and teaching online.

Today, Joe is faithfully teaching more and more of Lawrence’s family, and more and more are obeying. This Muslim community is being rocked by the Gospel. We asked Joe what these new converts are finding so compelling. Joe told us that they are amazed at the story of Jesus, His death, His burial, His resurrection and the witnesses who testified to what they saw.

Joe recently returned from visiting Lawrence in Malawi. While there, Joe taught eight Muslim neighbors who obeyed the Gospel and were clothed in Christ Jesus. Joe also taught Lawrence to teach. Now, Lawrence tells Joe that his desire is to teach Jesus to his entire community.

Would you like to hear more about Lawrence and Joe? Visit worldbibleschool.net/joe to watch a short video that tells the story of God working through Joe and Lawrence.



Joe with Lawrence and his family in Malawi

Lasting Relationships

As a child, John Reese began attending the Avondale church of Christ in Harare, Zimbabwe around 1960. Evangelistic partnerships with Avondale date back to 1974. In July, Avondale hosted yet another workshop for follow up workers. The next day, 13 were baptized at Avondale from a WBS follow up seminar that attracted 110 students. Over 30 national preachers came together



The Reeses at Avondale (granddaughter Hannah at left)

for these Zimbabwean-organized events. Avondale also houses the WBS Service Center with Alice Mhlanga and Maidei Tandi, a critical hub for serving Zimbabwe’s 1,000,000 WBS students. (See more on mission partnerships, page 8.)

PARTNERSHIPS THAT PAY OFF

Enhance Your Congregation's Missions

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

For many congregations, it is budget-preparation season—time to reconsider your missions effectiveness. Does your overall budget reflect Jesus' priority as stated in the Great Commission? Are your members sharing the saving Message? Are you partnering for maximum impact?



An issue of the Reese family “relationship” newsletter from 1987

Early on we focused on growing one struggling congregation in South Africa. We cherished relationships with sending churches in Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas. By God's grace, our congregation grew in spirit and numbers. They appointed elders and deacons, took responsibility for paying off their building and supported their own full-time evangelist. The best was yet to come as we harnessed more of the power of partnership.

During 1984-85, as visiting missionaries at Harding University, we approached eight supporting congregations for closer partnership. Their members would teach WBS students recruited through advertising in African newspapers. We would follow up on the most responsive students and report results. The South African congregation we had served became our home base for reaching larger populations. This new level of partnership benefited every facet of our mission work:

- American partners became more enthusiastic, especially when their efforts led directly to conversions and new churches.
- Financial partnership took on the stronger bonds of practical teamwork.
- Our South African church became less dependent on us and more outreach-oriented, even launching their own version of postal WBS.
- As hoped, larger populations were taught. By 1991, over 100,000 enrolled with WBS. Our computer records showed 5,000 referred to us for follow-up. 500 were baptized. Numerous growth points started. Other missionaries took up the WBS method, which continues to impact Southern Africa.

WBS has come a long way since then. WBS Connect now improves such targeted teamwork using Web ads. Whether enrollees choose Internet or paper, your members can be sharing Jesus in direct partnership with your field-workers. One congregation that uses this sort of synergy reported 1,200 confirmed baptisms in 2016.



You. Sharing Jesus.

POSTMASTER:

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

Flavil Yeakley said, “It is my impression that we are making more converts worldwide through World Bible School than all other methods put together. That’s not the only thing, but that’s the point of contact, and that is crucial.” Consider writing WBS into your budget as a line item separate from your local WBS or Connect program. This empowers WBS itself to recruit more students (2017 goal: 1,000,000+), to mobilize more volunteers, and to develop better cutting-edge evangelistic tools. Whatever you choose to do, be sure to prioritize the Great Commission!

upcoming...



Relationships

Partnering with individuals
for teaching and giving.