



ACTION!

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BE HUMBLE, BUT **THINK BIG**

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



Pictured on the front cover and to the left are faces of children Sondra and I met during our recent trip to Nigeria. They serve as a great reminder of our Lord's lesson on humility in Matthew 18:1-4.

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" (ESV)

Did you know, fifty years ago, the first WBS Students were from Nigeria? Who could have imagined that today, millions of Students from around the world have studied WBS courses and hundreds of thousands have been baptized into Christ as a result. This also puts me in mind of Ephesians 3:20-21.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (ESV)

This passage reminds us who gets the glory for such amazing results, God does! Yes, we want to think BIG and set BIG goals. But we must always maintain our humility, like a child, as we give the credit where the credit belongs - with God.

In this issue of ACTION! Magazine, we are going to challenge ourselves to **think BIG**. We are going to be inspired with **BIG stories**. And we are going to set **BIG goals**. But we do all of this in the context of what God is doing within and through us.

And as we think BIG, we also remember that BIG is composed of individuals like Brother Uyai's daughter. Her mother and family were beaming with joy that Sunday morning as we watched Uyai baptize his daughter into Christ.

Earlier on our trip, we joined Bro. Uyai along with 600 other evangelists and leaders of the church for the WBS Great Workshop hosted at Nigeria Christian Bible College (NCBC), Akwa Ibom State. Who could have imagined from the initial Students of WBS in 1973 that so many church leaders would gather from all over the country in order to coordinate Follow-up and teaching efforts with WBS tools?

As I heard story after story from our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, I realized so many of them learned of Jesus through WBS themselves. No wonder they are passionate about participating with Postal, Ocean Bridge and Online WBS evangelism tools. **I marvel at what God has done and is doing!**



Uyai Sunday baptizes his daughter after she completed the WBS Master Series.



Six hundred evangelists and church leaders at the WBS Great Workshop hosted at NCBC.



Israel Osanachi, Graduate of NCBC, now studying medicine, is excited to start WBS.



What a welcome! Follow-up teams from several states in Nigeria greeted Brian and Sondra upon their arrival at the airport. Because of a flight delay, the Nigerian Follow-up teams, along with local and national news media, waited several hours for their arrival to greet them.



Godwin Isaac (left), National Coordinator for WBS in Nigeria, and **Chad Wagner** (right, and on front cover), President of the African Christian Schools Foundation, worked together to plan a dynamic program to encourage WBS Follow-up teams and church leadership participation.

(Pictured bottom left) Brian and Chad join in a group prayer with **Biodun Owalabi**, Provost of Western Nigerian Christian Bible College, **Monday John Akpakpan**, WBS Follow-up worker since 1973, **Mike Udom**, Director of the WBS Great Workshop and **Godwin Isaac**. Brother Akpakpan challenged all 600 church leaders and WBS Follow-up workers attending the WBS Great Workshop to work together in unity and in love with WBS tools so that God could use everyone in a mighty way to share Jesus with Nigeria and beyond!





Last November, **Pat Brown** (left) decided to return to work in the public sector. Pat helped to build and lead our Advancement program from 2012 to 2023. During these years, God blessed our Advancement efforts with our greatest growth ever!

Jim Crain (right) worked for eight years in our Advancement efforts, and most recently, his efforts focused in Texas. Jim retired at the end of 2023 (Jim's wife, Karen, is pictured in the center).

We are so thankful for the incredible contribution of these two families. They compose part of the 50 years of history on which we stand as we look forward to the next 50 years.

We wish Pat & Lynette and Jim & Karen the very best!

WBS Advancement Reps Currently Serving in Your Area

Rodger Chaffin (Kentucky), Steve Gober (Alabama), David Harper (Tennessee), Rick and Mary Shur (Arkansas) and Josh Sneed (Texas)



Contact us at worldbibleschool.net/contact or (512) 345-8190.

Want to work with the WBS Advancement Team?

If you or someone you know is interested becoming a WBS Regional Advancement Rep, please visit worldbibleschool.net/rar or email George Barlow at g.barlow@worldbibleschool.net

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OCEAN BRIDGE

FRONTIERS - STATUS AND UPDATES



A WBS Service Center preparing to deliver Ocean Bridge courses



WBS Student

Forty-five congregations are now using the new Ocean Bridge method of teaching. They serve as pioneers, helping WBS learn how to use this new technology to bypass international postal systems in countries where postal systems are struggling. Each of these 45 congregations are helping us craft Ocean Bridge to become a productive correspondence tool for our entire brotherhood.

Below are some things we have learned as we craft this exciting new tool:

1 Since most of our Ocean Bridge Service Centers are currently in sub-Saharan Africa, Student recruitment takes a pause in December and January as these countries' schools celebrate the holidays. Currently, many of our Students come from secondary schools. To cope with the lull in Student recruitment, WBS is seeking new Student recruitment communities such as prisons, markets and neighborhoods surrounding congregations or partnering preacher training schools. Be praying for these efforts!

2 Each of our national Service Centers are manned by a local coordinator. Occasionally these men and women face difficult health situations. When one of our team members gets sick, we stand with them through the healing process. But this understandably slows down

our processes in that country. We are working to create back-up capacity to cope with this very real possibility. We also will try to keep you informed should this happen so you can join us in prayer. Your prayers are always important!

3 Thanks to Ocean Bridge's swift lesson turn-around, Students' faith quickly develops where they are ready to be baptized for the remission of their sins. With many of our Students currently in secondary schools, gaining permission from parents and school administrations to baptize these Students can prove difficult. WBS has recently deployed Ron Pottberg to Ghana, Phil Palmer to Kenya and Brian and Sondra Davis to Nigeria to brainstorm with local Follow-up volunteers how we can improve Follow-up with Ocean Bridge Students. We look forward to reporting the ideas being gathered to you soon.

4 We have developed new ways to publish ACTION! digitally to keep you informed with the latest details, developments and success stories. Visit worldbibleschool.net/action to subscribe and receive our NEW monthly ACTION! News emails. We pray these updates will keep you informed and encouraged as we work and rejoice together with God as He impacts lives through your efforts all around the world!

UPDATE IN MALAWI

THE STORY OF JUAP WILLIAM CONTINUES



Juap William and his wife in Malawi.

STEVE GOBER

DECATUR, ALABAMA

REGIONAL REP FOR ADVANCEMENT

Last fall, I wrote an article in ACTION! about God's work through WBS to bring many souls to Christ in Malawi. For two consecutive years I have made trips to Malawi to study further with the WBS Students and new Christians.

In 2022, we saw 80 souls put Christ on in baptism. One of those was Juap William, who was my Online Student and a former Pentecostal preacher. After his baptism, he revealed to me that he was also a Pentecostal Bishop and oversaw 16 Pentecostal churches in Malawi. As I returned home, he met with all 16 congregations and converted them to New Testament Christianity! Knowing that these were all still babes in Christ, I returned in 2023 for the purpose of grounding them in the faith. God had even greater plans for the trip and led 111 more souls to be baptized into Christ!

Since Juap William has a background in both the Muslim faith and Pentecostalism, he has been converting many from both religions using the WBS lessons. Unfortunately, this has upset the Muslim community. Several weeks ago, a group

of Muslim men wearing masks and armed with machetes and large sticks broke into his home while his family was asleep. They proceeded to bind Juap and his wife with chains and beat them with the sticks. They told him that "his work of preaching was finished and he must stop." Juap, his wife, and one of his children had to be treated at the hospital for their wounds. His wife experienced a few days of internal bleeding as a result of the attack. Yes, persecution does still exist!

I tried to encourage Juap by emailing several Scriptures to him as a reminder that God had not forsaken him. One of those, Romans 8:28, **"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose,"** has certainly proven true.

As the men departed, following the attack, they stole some items from Juap's home. Two weeks later, the police called Juap, telling him they had three men in custody who were trying to sell some of the items he reported stolen. Juap went to the police station and identified the items and the three men were sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

Two days later, the Village Chief (similar to a mayor) called Juap into his office. When he arrived, he discovered they were holding eight other men who had been involved in the attack. They were asking for his forgiveness. Juap forgave them and proceeded to tell them the story of Jesus. After subsequent Bible studies all eight men and their wives requested to be baptized into Christ. Five of those families are now attending the congregation Juap attends and the other three families are attending a congregation closer to their homes.

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. To Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136:1, 4)



JOHN REESE | SEARCY, ARKANSAS
PRESIDENT EMERITUS



*John Reese recruiting WBS Students
in Zimbabwe, 1995*



THE POINT IS NOT ABOUT THE PAST, BUT THE

FUTURE

One advantage of longevity is a clearer rearview mirror—looking back at how God worked, how He turned obstacles into stepping stones. Having been born and raised in Zimbabwe, Africa, I dreamed of impacting that nation with the Gospel. Yet, after college, we managed only two years there before wartime circumstances forced us to leave. We were devastated, thinking our prayers had been ignored.

Now, years later, we realize the Lord was working, answering prayers more powerfully than we knew. He used our 13 years in South Africa to connect with World Bible School which led Tex Williams to invite us to join him in Texas to develop WBS further. During the next 20 years, many nations benefited, especially Zimbabwe.

In 1993, for example, WBS was set back by civil collapse in West Africa which cut off many correspondence Students. With Tex's approval, we Reeses spent nearly a year (1994-1995) traveling throughout Southern Africa. During that first "God Bless Africa" effort, nearly 100,000 enrolled to become WBS Students in Zimbabwe alone, with another 50,000 in neighboring countries. From there, numbers grew exponentially as we took annual campaigns and local brethren worked year-round. Here are some figures for enrollments of new WBS Students in Zimbabwe:

2007-2009 - 455,440 | 2010-2012 - 638,968

2013-2015 - 695,597 | 2016-2019 - 680,009

From 2007 until 2020, when COVID interfered, the total Postal enrollment was over 2,470,014, representing about a sixth of Zimbabwe's population. The actual total is higher as the above figures show Students enrolled only through the WBS office in Austin, Texas. They do not reflect the multiplying effect as thousands more enrolled as referrals through congregational programs. Nor do they account for digital enrollments. Despite postal problems, WBS has kept the momentum going with Ocean Bridge and with the WBS Lite app.

The point is not about the past, but the future. Whether or not we see how things will work out, the Lord remains faithful and fully in charge. His Kingdom presses forward, reaching more and more people. The question is about us. Will we be faithful? Will we trust and obey? "50 Forward" means taking the Great Commission more seriously than ever, praying more fervently than ever. Our Almighty King is answering our prayers, doing so much more than we ask or imagine.

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SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH WBS

TO PROVIDE ADVANCED MINISTRY TRAINING ON WBS ONLINE



“I HAVE AN IDEA”

JIMMIE LOVELL TO TRUITT ADAIR

TIM YAEGER | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA | CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

In 1971, beneath the radiant California sun glimmering on the ocean waves, inside an office frozen in the 1960s with its wooden desk and retro flair, an idea was about to spark a revolution. Here sat a young missionary, his eyes alight with ambition, across from an elder seasoned in the trenches of mission work. The room, a sanctuary of decades-spanning church labor, brimmed with the energy of impending change. The elder, with a lifetime of stories etched into his lines, leaned forward, igniting the air with four simple words: **“I have an idea.”**

This idea, a brainchild of Jimmie Lovell, found an ally in Truitt Adair (missionary to Nigeria), who would become the president and then chancellor of Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI). Before the term “World Bible School” would even be coined by Lovell in 1973, he envisioned Nigerian newspaper ads as seeds of this grand vision. Adair heeded the call, and thousands of responses flooded in from Nigeria, heralding the birth of what we know today as World Bible School.

These four words have since woven two ministries together, SIBI and WBS, into a tapestry of shared mission and purpose. Their collaboration has been a testament to the power of partnership in faith, a synergy that has propelled the Gospel into

countless lives. The legacy of those initial Nigerian newspaper ads has blossomed, with many WBS Students continuing their journey at SIBI schools, some of which are now helmed by those very converts from the 1970s.

Innovation hasn't paused; the new WBS Online platform and the distribution of over 17,000 SIBI Solar Players packed with WBS courses illustrate evolving strategies to spread the Word. Following this tradition of innovation, another pivotal “I have an idea” moment two years ago led to the launch of an effort to train more preachers: SIBI's 10,000 Voices initiative. **In partnership, SIBI has provided Introductory ministry training courses for WBS Students who have completed the Master Series.** These courses are now available on WBS Online. The purpose is to channel quality WBS Students into further ministry training with SIBI.

From a single idea over 50 years ago, 40 million people have been touched. With a forward gaze and a commitment to unity, the hope is to embrace hundreds of millions more in the next half-century. The journey from a quiet office overlooking the sea to a global movement has been a testament to the power of collaboration and faith where God receives the glory for His providential hand.

“SUNSET MINISTRY STUDIES” ARE **NOW AVAILABLE!**



worldbibleschool.org



WBS App



WBS Lite

The “Sunset Ministry Studies” are available to all Students who have completed the “WBS Master Series”. Students can access these courses on our website, WBS App and WBS Lite app. Study Helpers can browse the courses by logging into the website.

BRIAN REX DAVIS FEATURED ON “**OUR JOURNEY TO HOPE**”



WBS President, Brian Rex Davis, was recently a guest on the podcast, “Our Journey to Hope” hosted by Dave Laton from Alabama. They discussed the role of World Bible School as it offers ways for folks to discover, sustain or regain hope. Some of the specific topics discussed were the mission and focus of World Bible School, resources for Students and Study Helpers and how one can become involved. They also discussed how WBS helps individuals and congregations grow spiritually in their service to the Lord.

The podcast is available through most major podcast outlets such as iTunes, Spotify, and Amazon, or you can go to the podcast website at ourjourneytohope.buzzsprout.com.

MATHETIS APP & WEBSITE **NOW AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**

After recent upgrades to Mathetis’ privacy and security features, we have now made **Mathetis available worldwide**. Anyone from around the world can download the Mathetis app or register online at mathetis.org. We have already seen users register from India, *Asia, Africa, Australia, Central America and many more.

Also thanks to two incredible volunteers, we now offer **Spanish closed captions** within the Mathetis Original videos. Simply turn on the closed caption feature from the videos’ playback settings and select Spanish as your preferred language. This is currently available for all “In Need of a Savior” videos. Progress continues for “Wondering What to Believe” and “Seeking the Family of God”.

**Due to government security restrictions in some countries, Mathetis users in Asia are unable to watch the videos from our website or app. However, all users can download the Mathetis Original videos onto their computer or mobile device after creating a group. Asian users have also partnered with users in the U.S. to host ZOOM Bible studies and watch the Mathetis Original videos together through screen sharing.*



HOW HIGH IS HIGH?

GUEST EDITORIAL BY KENT DOBBS | PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA

“Where there is no vision, the people perish”
Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

What is our vision for ourselves, our families, our churches? As we go through life, we ask ourselves challenging questions. Where do I want to go? What do I want to do? How am I going to get there?

In the business world, we ask similar questions. What are our goals? What is our “plan of action” to achieve our goals? What is the time frame to accomplish our goals? Are we going to “inspect what we expect”, meaning will we hold ourselves accountable to get the job done?

In the church, we should ask ourselves even deeper questions. Are we in a healthy relationship with our Creator? Are we growing daily into maturity in Christ? Are we praying “without ceasing”? Are we relentlessly pursuing the mission of Jesus our Lord?

In our Christian walk, are we sharing Jesus with others? We do not want to go to Heaven alone! We need to take others with us. Let’s not forget the last words of Jesus to His disciples, and to all of us today.



"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

We call this Jesus' "Great Commission". Let me suggest one great way to pursue this goal: World Bible School. Since 1973, WBS has been providing excellent tools for the brotherhood to share the Good News of Jesus with the world. WBS has developed tools from Postal studies to cutting edge digital tools which together can reach most any place on earth.

WBS evangelism tools are easy to use and develop an enjoyable relationship between the Study Helper and the Student. Guiding Students does not take much of your time, perhaps a couple of hours a week for church groups with many Students. The individual Study Helper can grade a Student's course work and provide basic guidance within minutes. Furthermore, WBS networks with Christians all over the world to help you with Follow-up for your Student when ready. Follow-up is the term WBS uses for finding a congregation of the Lord's church nearest to your Student. If no congregation is near them, WBS has a course to help your Student begin a congregation in their home or some other convenient place.

WBS is able to share the Good News of Jesus on a massive scale because thousands of everyday Christians take up these tools and contribute their part to this Great Commission. Between 2022 and 2023, WBS offered a free Bible study to 14,800,000 people from around the world.

In our WBS program at the **Prattville church of Christ, we were able to send out 17,800 Bible study courses in 2023.**

That was our part of what would become the fruit of our brotherhood working together with WBS tools. Between 2022 and 2023, 1.61 million people registered for Postal correspondence. 299,000 Students registered Online and through the WBS

apps. 733,000 souls were taught by watching videos from the WBS online group Bible study tool, Mathetis. Many of those on Mathetis were from the United States and Canada. And 105,000 WBS Study Edition Bibles were distributed.

During one month of our congregation's WBS work, we had **185 Students from Ghana request to be baptized** for the forgiveness of their sins! WBS is now networking with brotherhood partners - like Sunset International Bible Institute - to help us provide Follow-up for these requests. SIBI knows thousands of preachers in that area and are happy to help.

Isn't it great when we have the opportunity to work in unity for the cause of Christ? Working together makes us all stronger.

Now WBS needs your help.

Pray for WBS. Stop right now and pray for this good work that many may come to know Jesus and His saving Gospel.

Get involved. Organize a WBS Study Helper group at your home, your congregation or even among your friends. If you need help getting started, give WBS a call!

Give financially. \$5, \$50, \$500 - any gift will help. Thousands of Bible lessons are being printed in countries around the world and taken by local church leaders to villages, prisons, schools and neighborhoods. Will you help WBS sustain these efforts? Every person's participation makes this possible on this scale.

As I take a walk each day, I look up at the beautiful sky and ask myself, "How high is high?" I am reminded of Psalm 108:4-5

"For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!" (ESV)

For any help getting started with WBS evangelism tools, please call Brian Rex Davis, President of WBS, at 512-345-8190 or call me, Kent Dobbs, your brother and friend in Christ, at 479-283-1880.

JOIN US FOR DINNER



GEORGE BARLOW
AUSTIN, TEXAS
CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

Who's coming to dinner? I remember when I was a young boy growing up in Indiana, my mom had dinner prepared every night for the family at 5 p.m. Dinner was a time where we gathered around the table to give thanks, discuss how the day went at school and work, and to enjoy a delicious meal. It was a time of reflection, laughter and sometimes never leaving the table until my vegetables were all gone.

Jesus welcomed his disciples into fellowship, sharing special and memorable stories and taught them many things often over dinner. He even chose a meal as the way he wanted to be remembered. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26 NASB)

World Bible School's annual dinners are fast approaching and we are planning for magnificent attendance in various locations throughout the country. We want as many people to be invited, come to the table and be included as we share the Good News of how the Gospel is reaching so many in impactful ways.

Everyone throughout the brotherhood is invited to attend and we encourage you to bring at least two guests with you. We encourage you to open your minds and your eyes as you think of people in neighboring churches and different walks of life throughout your city.

We will have three dinners this year. Searcy, Arkansas on September 10, Nashville, Tennessee on October 10, and Austin, Texas on November 7.

In the book of Isaiah chapter 25 we find a vision of inclusion where it says, "The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain." Here is where God has prepared a feast on Mount Zion in which all peoples are invited to participate in a place where you will find joy and ever lasting peace.

Looking forward to seeing you at dinner!



To learn more and to RSVP visit:
worldbibleschool.net/dinners2024



See our full timeline, future goals and how you can participate with us in the next 50 years and beyond at worldbibleschool.net/50forward.

1979

600,000 STUDENTS

WBS reports 600,000 Students and 22,000 baptisms since its inception in 1973.

1980

WBS FOLLOW-UP

Jake Coppinger becomes first American supported to help facilitate WBS Follow-up.

1983

INCORPORATED AS NON-PROFIT

WBS in Austin, Texas incorporates as non-profit (TX) and holds its first board meeting.

WE ARE SEEKING

500 CHURCHES & 5,000 INDIVIDUALS TO GIVE \$5, \$50 OR \$500 A MONTH

YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED IMMEDIATELY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THE WORLD!

Please accept my **GIFT** of:

☐ \$5 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Please make my **GIFT** a:

☐ One time gift ☐ Monthly recurring ☐ Yearly recurring

DONOR is:

☐ Individual/Household **-or-** ☐ Congregation

Name: _____

Name of Congregation: _____

Donor Address: _____

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My **GIFT** is provided via:

☐ Check, payable to "World Bible School" ☐ Credit Card

If selected "Credit Card," please fill out the following:

Card Number: _____

Expiration: ____ / ____ CVC: ____
3-digit security code required.

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____



SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT WORLDBIBLESCHOOL.NET/GIVE TO GIVE ONLINE

Please make my **GIFT** a tribute:

☐ Memorial Gift ☐ Honor Gift

This tribute is for: _____

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Address: _____

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COMING UP NEXT

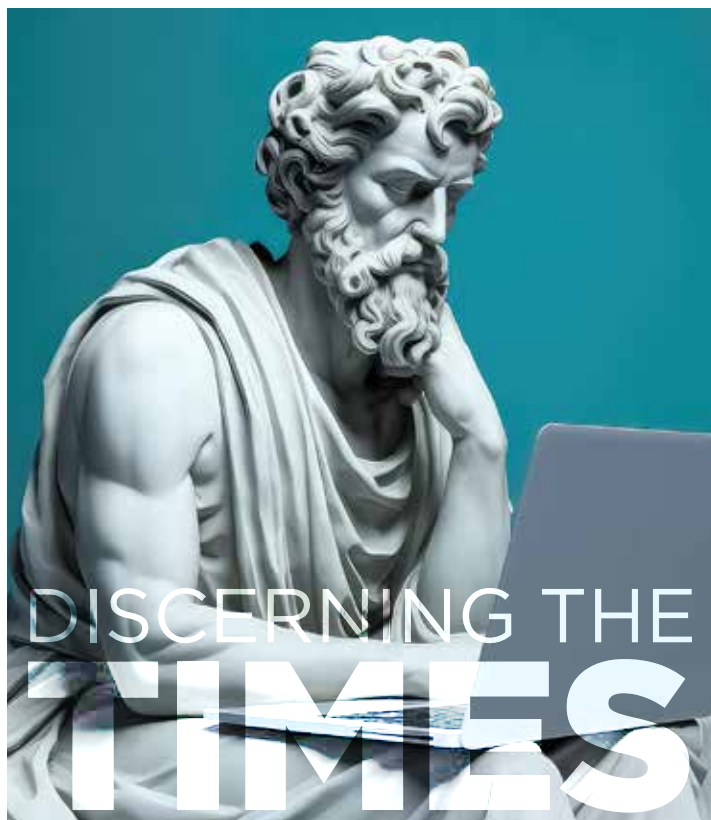


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DISCERNING THE TIMES

God's work in YOU!



1) With input from his Study Helper, Yohane, from Malawi, left his previous church to follow proper New Testament teachings and to be immersed into Christ. 2) WBS Student, Lightwell, was baptized in Lusaka. 3) Ayanda was baptized in South Africa at a brotherhood Bible college near her hometown. 4) Watch the video of our new sister, Alice, as she is baptized into Christ at worldbibleschool.net/action 5) WBS workers in India enrolled 12 souls using the WBS Lite app at Samuel George Engineering College after being invited to share WBS with their technical students. 6) WBS Student, Beatrice, was recently baptized in Kenya. **SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US.** Encourage the brotherhood. Email us at help@worldbibleschool.net. Please get Student's permission before sharing.