

Establishing a World Bible School Program in Your Home Congregation

Lesson Text: **Matthew 28:19-20** & **Isaiah 55:10-11**

INTRODUCTION:

Matthew 28:19-20 is still in the Book: “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.” Amen. Often we hear the expression, “the world is getting smaller.” Certainly communication technologies and modern air travel, in a manner of speaking, have made it so. On the other hand, the continents remain just as far apart, geographically speaking, and not everyone will travel from nation to nation. While some will go forth as foreign missionaries, by far, the majority of Christians in the United States will remain in the United States. Nonetheless, there is a way, a powerful way, a simple way, to endeavor to reach the lost in lands you may never see or visit in your lifetime. The message will still be the all-inspired Word of God, and the tool can be World Bible School and its professionally printed materials.

World Bible School is one of the greatest tools of evangelism in our day, or any other day. As you will come to see in this writing, World Bible School will afford every member of the Lord’s Church an opportunity to spread the gospel around the world . . . and that right from one’s own home. It is true that “every heart with Christ is a missionary, and every heart without Christ is a mission field.” For additional study, inspiration, and motivation you are invited to visit the sermon outline section of the Myrtle Beach Church of Christ website

www.myrtlebeachchurchofchrist.org

and study the sermon entitled “World Vision For Christ.” The sermon, based on material earlier written by George Bailey, will greatly motivate one to better serve God by teaching others at home, and around the world, the “**unsearchable riches of Christ**” (**Ephesians 3:8**).

To better help us see the importance of World Bible School and to become better acquainted with how it works, some questions and answers will prove helpful. In addition, some factual stories can be motivational as well. Near the end of the presentation, we will provide information for use in contacting World Bible School.

1. **WHAT IS WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL?** World Bible School is a method of teaching the gospel to the lost by using Bible Correspondence courses.
 - a. WBS is not the first BCC, nor will it be the last. However, among Bible

correspondence course programs, it has proven to be effective in many nations of the world.

- b. The teaching is done by Christians who have a special love for lost souls.
- c. Through this effort, there are approximately one million people studying the Bible each day with over 60,000 members of the churches of Christ who serve as their teachers.

2. **BACKGROUND.**

- a. World Bible School was formally founded by Jimmie Lovell in 1973. In fact the foundation was laid in Nashville, TN, during Word War II when printed Bible lessons and correspondence course work was prepared and sent to American troops overseas.
- b. WBS is presently directed by bro. R. H. (Tex Williams) who works under the oversight of the elders of the Westover Hills Church of Christ in Austin, Texas.
- c. The Westover Hill's congregation furnishes office space to be used by WBS and provides volunteer help to implement the basic working of the program.

3. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

- a. World Bible School is supported by the contributions of congregations and individuals.
 - 1. Contributions are also received from Trust Funds and Foundations operated by Christians.
 - 2. Many Christians remember WBS in their wills in order that they might have a continuing part in preaching the gospel after their death.
- b. All contributions to WBS are used for evangelism.
 - 1. Contributions that come from individual Christians and churches are never used for salaries.
 - 2. Everyone who works with the program either does so as a volunteer or raises his or her own funds from other sources.
- c. Contributions that come in from congregations and individuals are used for printing WBS lessons.
- d. Printed lessons and materials are sold at just about what it costs to produce and handle them.
- e. Funds that come in from the sale of the materials are put back into the reprinting of more materials.

4. **WHO CAN BECOME A WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHER?**

- a. Anyone can be a WBS teacher.
 - 1. WBS teachers come from many backgrounds and nationalities.
 - 2. Their ages range all the way from teenagers to Christians in their 80's and 90's.

3. Some are poor and some are wealthy, but they all have one thing in common—They love Christ so much that they want to share Him with others.
- b. Becoming a WBS teacher is a very rewarding venture for any Christian who would like to serve the Lord by teaching others the gospel.
 1. In many ways it is simple.
 2. However, WBS teachers must be willing to take time to:
 - a. Send the lesson out to their students.
 - b. Grade the lessons as they are received back.
 - c. Take time to write and encourage their students.
 - d. Take time to answer questions their students may have.
 1. The preacher will help.
 2. The elders will help.
 3. Fellow Christians will help.
 4. Other printed materials (tracts, written explanations, etc.).
 - e. Pray for their students.
 - c. Like any method of evangelism, it takes dedication and hard work.
 1. But it is worth the effort when a soul obeys the Lord.
 2. Good news, success stories, and enrollment figures should be announced it to the congregation from time to time..

5. **HOW ARE STUDENTS GENERATED?**

- a. World Bible School places ads in foreign newspapers and magazines around the world advertising the availability of Bible study. As people respond and their names and addresses arrive at WBS's Texas office, the names are then sent to congregations who order them. We have ordered 500 and 1,000 at a time. Funds to place these ads and for any other means of enrolling students, come from contributions made to WBS by congregations and interested individuals. As they are able to generate more funds, more appeals for students can be made around the world.
 1. Some congregations fund ads to be placed in newspapers in places of their own choosing.
 2. Some fund ads in areas where they are supporting a missionary in the field.
 3. I might add, these ads are generally placed in areas where English is the language of the people.
 4. Some materials are now being translated into other languages.
- a. Should you receive a response in a language other than English, that response is sent to a WBS office.

6. **HOW WOULD A WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM BE STRUCTURED IN YOUR CONGREGATION?**

- a. This, and any other program, will be under the oversight of the elders of the congregation.
- b. A World Bible School Room will be designated and outfitted with all necessary items including:
 1. Work space.
 2. Organized storage dividers for lessons and other materials.
 3. Mailing envelopes, tape, markers, etc.
 4. A world wall map for tracking where your WBS students are.
 5. An organizer slot for each student to receive materials from the WBS director. Note: That slot (or box) should be checked every time you come to a service. There could be new students being assigned to you or lessons from your current students
- c. A World Bible School Director will be appointed to coordinate the program and report to the elders.

The Director/Coordinator will:

1. Serve as the contact person between the congregation and WBS offices
 2. Promote WBS within the congregation.
 3. Recruit members to become WBS teachers.
 4. Request names of students from WBS who have requested the WBS course.
 5. Order all WBS materials.
 6. Assign students to teachers.
 7. Coordinate the mailing of all materials.
 8. Assist the teachers in fulfilling their role of teaching the lost.
- d. Teachers will be sought to work with and teach the students through the lessons and other correspondence.

7. **WHAT DOES A WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHER WITHIN A CONGREGATION DO?**

Overall, the WBS teacher helps to teach the lost for the purpose of saving souls.

Procedures:

- The teacher receives a name (or names) from the director. The director has received the names from the World Bible School office in Texas.
- The WBS teacher (Student Helper) picks up and completes the Student Helper portion of the Introduction Lesson, addresses it, and puts it in the designated area in the WBS room for mailing. Note: All postage will be paid by the congregation.
- The student responds by studying, completing and returning the

question/answer portion of the lesson to you at the congregation's designated mailing address. NOTE: Never should you use your home address or telephone number in your communications with your students.

- The teacher (Student Helper) grades the question/answer section of the Introduction Lesson and returns it along with the first of the multi-lesson booklets. This process is completed until all of the books have been studied. Care should be taken to comment on any questions that the student misses and also to answer all questions asked.
- When a student has completed all of the WBS books used in the course, the congregation should send an attractive **Certificate of Completion** to the student. Some congregations may want WBS to send a **Bible** to the student. The cost should be provided by the congregation as a part of the overall WBS program. The decision is made on a student-to-student basis. In fact, while individuals can participate in the WBS program at their own expense of purchasing materials, postage, etc., we strongly believe more brethren will become involved if the expensed are born by the congregation.

8. **WHAT ARE THE MATERIALS THAT MAKE UP THE WBS PROGRAM?**

NOTE: The red colored multi-lesson booklet is used for students overseas, and the blue five-lesson Correspondence Course (U.S.A.) is used for students in North America.

The lessons that make up the WBS course are:

1. Introductory Lesson
2. Book 1 – **GOD HAS SPOKEN**
 - God Has spoken Through Nature
 - God Has Spoken Through the Prophets
 - God Has Spoken Through a Prophet Like Moses
 - God Has Spoken Through His Writings
 - God Has Spoken of His Enemy
 - God Has Spoken of Judgment
 - God Has Spoken of Mercy
3. Book 2 – **KNOWING JESUS**
 - Knowing God Through His Messenger
 - Knowing Jesus Through His Witness
 - Knowing Jesus Through His Prophecies
 - Knowing Jesus Through His Signs
 - Knowing Jesus As the Light
 - Knowing Jesus As the Life
 - Knowing Jesus as the Lord

4. Book 3 – **THIS IS GOOD NEWS**

- Knowing Jesus
- Obeying the Gospel
- Living the Gospel
- Study Notes

5. Book 4 – **BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT**

- Introduction: Nicodemus Meets Jesus
- Flesh Gives Birth to Flesh
- Spirit Gives Birth to Spirit
- New Birth is By Death
- New Birth is By Grace
- New birth is By Faith
- New Birth is By Repentance
- New Birth is by Water
- New Birth is By Spirit

6. Book 5 – **HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN AND ESTABLISH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY** This book is prepared for students who obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ but live in an area where there is not a congregation of the Church of Christ. This practical book tells one how to establish a congregation in one's very own community. It shows you the proper pattern for worship each First Day of the Week-Sunday. It also shows one how to prepare the Lord's Supper to be partaken every Sunday.9. **WHAT ABOUT FOLLOW-UP FOR FURTHER TEACHING AND BAPTISM REQUESTS?**

- a. Some directories and country maps are available through WBS. I know Ghana and Nigeria are available. The WBS office in Texas can provide more information in this regard.
- b. By this time, most students who have stayed with the course will either be ready to be baptized or seriously consider it in a personal study with an evangelist or some other native teacher.
 1. The WBS director will open and maintain a knowledge base of contacts for such purpose (as available).
 2. Follow-up information will be sent by the teacher so that the student can be referred to the nearest congregation of the Lord's Church.
 3. At the same time, where it is possible, the director will work to notify the missionary, evangelist, or congregation about the student.
 4. If there is no congregation in the area, the WBS booklet, *How To Become a Christian and Establish the Church of Christ in Your*

Community may be sent to the student so that a congregation may be established.

Note: Just imagine! Through this program you may actually be responsible for starting a new congregation of the Lord's Church in a foreign land!

Note: More and more missionaries and congregations are using email. That is another resource available to reach out around the world.

- Even though one person requests the course, often entire families meet to study the lessons together.
- Some students study the lessons with their friends.
- Sometimes students will send you the names and address of others who want to take the course.
 - Whole school classes.
 - Family members.
 - Neighbors.
 - Work associates.
 - Etc.
- People in denominations study the course and bring others from their "church" to enroll as well.
- A number of foreign denominational preachers enroll in the course.
- WBS provides you with the opportunity to be a missionary without ever leaving the comforts of your home, congregation, or the United States.
- Some teachers schedule specific days and times each week to process their materials.
- God believes in the power of the printed page—He had His word written down for all to read. Through the WBS program, we can send forth that word to places we otherwise will never be able to visit.

Isaiah 55:10-11

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

The Myrtle Beach Church of Christ would delight in having you visit us and look at our World Bible School firsthand. Please feel free to telephone us at

(843) 448-8071

We believe in Word Bible School. Its successes for God's glory are many. As it continues to grow, it is our hope that your congregation will become a part of it and your members will participate in taking the gospel of Christ to as many

places as possible. God will bless you for it. Please feel free to contact the main World Bible School offices at:

Postal Address: World Bible School
P. O. Box 2169
Cedar Park, TX 78630-2169 USA

Location Address: World Bible School
13441 Lime Creek Road
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Telephone: (512) 345-8190
(For ordering WBS materials: 1-877-393-0211

Web Site: www.wbschool.org

World Bible School Success Stories

Man Led to Christ By Bible Lesson Found in the Gutter

A most amazing story has just come to our attention concerning a conversion to Christ through a World Bible School lesson. Alex Ngyeh-Young was walking down the street in Ghana when he came across a paper lying in the gutter. He picked it up and glanced through what was in it. The material was entitled *How To Become A Christian And Establish The Church Of Christ In Your Community*. Alex was amazed that he had found the paper, but came to the conclusion as he read through it that God wanted to save him from the sins he had committed.

Alex made up his mind to go to church. On the first day of the week he took the paper and found his way to the church of Christ in the village. He revealed the whole story to the preacher who told him how to have salvation. After the service the preacher studied with Alex "face to face" and preached to him "through the Bible". In two days Alex repented, confessed and was baptized into Christ.

And now the rest of the story! 'The above information was taken almost word for word from a letter written by Alex Ngyeh Young. He sent it to one of our members, Patsy Wootton, thanking her that he was now a Christian through the information she had sent to his country. What Alex may not have known is that

the Bible lesson had been mailed from America more than seven years ago. Where all it had been during those seven years we have no way of knowing. But we do know the end result in the life of one person with whom it came into contact.

So is my word that goes out of My mouth: it will not return to Me empty. but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” **Isaiah 55:11.**

If anything, we ought to realize more than ever that God uses our feeble efforts more than we can imagine (Marshall Henson – Springdale, Arkansas)

Just a 44-cent Stamp and A Christian Woman

So much from so little. That seems to be the story of World Bible School. The people mentioned below are typical of those who have been converted through the efforts of concerned WBS workers.

ANIDAMBIKE MWAKASUNGULA was a bishop in a denominational group with 12,000 members in Western Tanzania. He enrolled in and finished the WBS course and asked his teacher, Diana Barnes of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, to direct him to the nearest church of Christ minister. He was visited by an American missionary and a native preacher and after several days of study, he and one of his ministers were baptized.

JACKSON RONO, a forest ranger in Kalenjin Kenya, finished his WBS course and attended a one week course held by the missionaries in Western Kenya for WBS students. He obeyed the gospel, left his denominational ties, and a short time later had a healthy church of about 25 adults in his home town, growing spiritually and teaching in nearby towns.

ZEPTIANIA KITTANY, a primary school teacher, lives in one of the most remote and inaccessible areas of Kalenjin State, in Kenya. He finished the WBS course and attended the one week course held by workers in Western Kenya. Jackson Rono, Converted the year before, was his teacher. Zephania was baptized and went home to teach his wife and neighbors.

Now there is a church of about 35 adults in Zepliania’s home area, most of them a direct result of his efforts. Two years ago Zephania baptized a friend from another village 20 miles away. Since then, he has walked to and from that village almost every Sunday to spread the gospel there. At last word, 45 had been baptized in that village.

TWO CHILDREN in a Catholic school in Nigeria wrote for the WBS course. They took it and introduced it to their friends who took it. Some of the nuns found out about it and took the course. The priest heard about it and wrote for it. When he finished his course, he requested 200 of the WBS courses because he wanted to make it a part of the curriculum.

Later he sent a copy of an official document that had been mailed to the local and federal government stating that the school was no longer a Catholic church, but was now the church of Christ.

Fifteen months later, now a gospel preacher, he wrote saying "In the last 12 months, we have baptized over 500 people and started four new congregations." Just a 44 cent stamp and a Christian woman.

Doing Much With Little

Three sisters ages 77, 80, and 86 have been active in World Bible Study since 1974. It is estimated that they have had 15,000 students. One of their converts recently taught and baptized an entire Methodist Church in Nigeria consisting of 125 members. They use their abilities in teaching the word of God to others through correspondence. This is a work that most people can do. When the seed is planted in honest and good hearts it will produce a ripe harvest. WHAT ARE YOU DOING? (Charles Williamson Lewisburg, TN)

Good News

An 82 year old man living in Hound Dog Holler near Sand Springs, OK, became a World Bible School Teacher four years ago. Suffering from cancer he did not despair. At last count he had 2,581 correspondence students in several foreign countries. The day he was buried, 77 lessons were being mailed to students he had been studying with. Among those letters, 21 were in answer to requests for baptism.

CONCLUSION:

Friends, it is our hope that these true stories have touched your heart as much as they have touched ours. Our elders made the conscious decision to begin a World Bible School program in Myrtle Beach. God has blessed us with good leadership, fine teachers, and thousands upon thousands of students. We are blessed to have such a wonder tool as the printed pages of World Bible School. We close by providing one more story that emphasizes "The Power of the Printed Page." May God richly bless you and your congregational leadership in any and all efforts to lead souls to Christ!

The Power of the Printed Page

I recently read of a grocery store clerk in Czechoslovakia who was sentenced to five years of hard labor for owning an “unlicensed mimeograph machine!” Another article told of an order issued by Romanian president-dictator, Nicolae Ceauscsu, forbidding the ownership or even the use of a typewriter by anyone who poses “a threat to public order or state security.”

These items brought two things to mind: First, how grateful we should be to live in the United States of America where freedom of speech is a right guaranteed by the Constitution. Second, the two items mentioned above emphasize something that we perhaps have overlooked or forgotten: the power of the printed page. If the written word was not an effective way to reach people and convert them to a doctrine or philosophy, then communist and other dictatorial leaders would not have such fear of it. As is, they wish to use it to promote their own causes and disallow it to any who might disagree.

God has put our salvation in a message: the gospel-the good news. The Word of God has tremendous power. It is a two-edged sword which can pierce men’s hearts, bring them to repentance, teach them of salvation, change lives, change the world!

But, before God’s Word can be effective, it must be communicated. There are many avenues available to spread the gospel of Christ, but none is more effective than the printed page.

We should use every opportunity available to put Christian literature into the hands of people who need it. Gospel tracts are still a good way to evangelize.

They can be handed out to friends, distributed door-to-door, placed in offices, and put in every sack of food or clothing given to the needy. The freedom to share God’s word in this fashion is guaranteed to us as Americans, and I believe God expects us to use it!

We should also support the efforts of our missionaries abroad who are making great sacrifices of both money and personal safety to put God’s word into the hands of multitudes of people in those nations where the Lord is not known. Their pleas for money, Bibles and other literature must be met.

So don’t just thank God for your freedom-use it to lead others to Christ! World Bible School can help!

Let’s Get to Work and Save Souls!!!!!!

