

World Bible School

Student enrollments are going up so much that we are wondering if we will have enough study helpers to teach them all. This past year WBS has updated the website and we are totally amazed by the results of these enhancements. WBS also launched a phone app called WBS Lite which provides Bible correspondence to people with limited mobile internet and a full-featured WBS App for constant high-speed internet connections. The COVID pandemic in 2020 greatly reduced the number of students that were able to register world-wide. Last year's postal enrollment was down 60% from 1,202,339 the previous year. The fantastic news is that 2021 is seeing a great rebound. January to July 2021 the enrollments of new postal students is 444,442 (barely under the total of 2020) The United States postal student enrollment is 57,090 which is 100% increase over same period last year. With the increase comes increased opportunities for Christians to use WBS tools to reach those seeking the truth. We are inviting members to help us grow our existing World Bible School activities here at New Road.

These are the latest figures we are now seeing on a **monthly** average:

New Online Registrations of web students=7,500 & WhatsApp.=600

Online Activity shows 16,000 lessons were graded by study helpers

New Postal Enrollment =74,000 with 800 new registering that were submitted on-line.

The monthly average Scanning Activity= 63,500 of courses submitted, scanned and given to study helpers at various congregations around the USA.

That's a tremendous amount of learning and teaching of God's word.

Due to the new implements from our website we expect August figures (that are not in yet) to be dramatically increased to 10,000 with the opportunity for connecting Christians and seekers. Since many register and don't complete the first lesson, many study helpers send out warm welcomes and encouragements on an average of around 3,500 to students monthly. Even this is an important role that many church members could easily commit to doing.

More is happening than numbers can report, and God is at work more than we can measure or imagine. "Ghana Prep" is a new program recently started. The Concord Road church of Christ in Nashville is very active with Ghana Prep. They report grading 883 scanned lessons this year with 60-70% retention rate and approximately 7% resulting in a baptism request. The Accra Ghana High School is allowing students to take World Bible School lessons from the actual booklets in class as a way of improving English. They also receive our certificates upon completion. We are encouraged to hear of high rates of retention and baptism requests. We here at New Road can also contact the headquarters of WBS and receive scanned lessons to grade. Give this some consideration if you prefer to grade postal lessons instead of on-line. We can provide you with plenty.

Nigeria continues to lead in scans with over 18,000. Followed by around 11,000 lessons in Malawi and 10,000 from Ghana. New Road hopes to resume soon with grading the scanned lessons like we did in the past. This time we plan to work directly through WBS instead of individual evangelists. Students are registering from all over the world including the United States. Teachers can select their students from a daily published student board list and students can also select their own teachers.

This picture of Leslie from Brooklyn, New York is shown to keep our supporters and study helpers encouraged. He earnestly sought the truth and was baptized into Christ in June 2021, transforming his life. You can see on his face, and his double thumbs-up, the joy of salvation in Christ.

The WBS Follow-up Program has improved with assistance of our United States "coordinators & partners" working directly with the study helpers and the contacted local evangelists and has resulted with more baptisms and better retention. This year, due to the pandemic having restricted travel and closing of many churches, more frequent & consistent contact has been necessary. Study helpers and their partners worked together to stay in contact with the students by encouraging patience and keeping their interest engaged while waiting for the opportunity to be baptized. We are meeting the needs by continuing follow-up



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studies well after baptism and encouraging them to attend worship services with the closest Church of Christ.

Three recent donors have set up trust funds for World Bible School. The trust matches funds raised by World Bible School dollar for dollar up to the 250,000 limit. This match comes at a time when God has brought both technology and talent together at WBS to send the truth of the Gospel around the world like never before. These funds have helped marketing initiatives to get WBS Lite and WBS App into the hands of as many seekers as possible. This has enormous potential. As an example, ads were tested in India and we witnessed 1,500 downloads in three hours which used up the budget set at \$1,000 for one day. Currently testing is being done in select countries at \$50 a day, leading to around 300 downloads daily. The donations will also help fund print advertising to be used in flyers and WBS paper courses used in partnership with ministries like Gospel Chariot Missions. Please join this effort to use these matching funds to spread the Gospel all over the world.

Seeds planted will be nurtured with watering of a nearby local evangelist and God will cause the growth. Pray that the soil of hearts will be receptive and allow the seed of God's word to grow. Our labor in the Kingdom yields a harvest beyond what we can see or even imagine. God is always at work.