

# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

A Great Commission Ministry: Evangelism and Discipleship – Matthew 28:18-20

Dr. Bob Utley • 903.935.2532 • 800.785.1005 • PO Box 1289, Marshall, TX 75671 • [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org)



**Luke 2:10** *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*



**Isaiah 9:6** *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

## A LETTER FROM BOB

*I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year!*

I hope this newsletter will give you an idea of what BLI is doing so you can pray more specifically for us. I am sorry that we are only able to send one newsletter each year. The cost for production and mailing is expensive but we do want you to see how God is using the ministry for His glory. I thank you so much for your prayers and generous financial support. Your gifts make all of this possible! When you read the letters from around the world remember that these comments are not just for me but for you also!

It is hard to remember all the things that have happened over the past year, but I want our prayer partners and supporters to be able to see how God is using all of us to impact the world. Let me try to outline several areas:

1. **Commentaries** that I have recently finished
  - a. 1 Chronicles
  - b. Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Lamentations
  - c. Judges, Ruth
2. **Commentaries** that I plan to write in 2016
  - a. Leviticus
  - b. Numbers
  - c. 2 Chronicles
3. New **planned translations** by language/book
  - a. Albanian—John, Romans
  - b. Bulgarian—John, Acts, 1 & 2 Corinthians
  - c. Chinese—Isaiah, 1 & 2 Corinthians
  - d. Hungarian—Genesis 1-11, Isaiah
  - e. Japanese—Romans, Acts
  - f. Serbian—Genesis 1-11, Deuteronomy
4. We have now **dubbed** (captioned) the Seminar on Biblical Interpretation (along with a translated textbook) into:
  - a. Amharic
  - b. Arabic
  - c. French
  - d. Indonesian
  - e. Korean
  - f. Oromo
  - g. Portuguese
  - h. Russian
  - i. Spanish
  - j. Philippines (Tagalog)
  - k. Vietnamese
  - l. Urdu (textbook only)
5. The **website** is doing well in reaching the world.
  - a. Total number of visitors: 2,310,000 as of November, 2015.
  - b. Total number of minutes watched on YouTube: In the last year, viewers have watched more than 3 million minutes of videos from Bible Lessons International. We currently have 1,043 videos posted on YouTube. The most popular video, Bible Interpretation Seminar Part 1, was watched more than 4,000 times in the past year.
  - c. Total number of downloads of the commentaries: There were more than 293,000 downloads of our "Verse-by-Verse Computer Bible Study" software during the past year.
6. **Translations** added in 2015
  - Croatian: Psalms, Genesis 12-50
  - Nepali: Romans
  - Polish: Gospel and Letters of John (first completed Polish translation)
  - German: Acts
  - Arabic: Revelation, Acts, Psalms
  - Tagalog: 1 & 2 Corinthians
  - Korean: Exodus

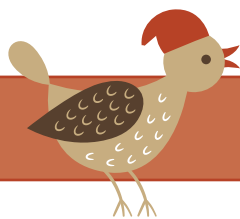
*Continued on page 2*

English: Exodus, 1 Chronicles  
Albanian: Gospel and Letters of John  
Amharic: Revelation  
Russian: Hebrews, Genesis 12-50  
Urdu: Seminar Textbook  
Farsi: Luke  
Vietnamese: Seminar Textbook, Revelation



This year we also completed the Video Bible Interpretation Seminar project, offering this work on YouTube in English and 11 other languages: Amharic, Arabic, French, Indonesian, Korean, Oromo, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Please look at one of these seminar videos online and see how it looks.

Peggy and I work at the office in Marshall, TX. Our typist and friend, Doris, works from her home in Garland. Dianne, who helped with general tasks, has moved to Florida and we really miss her sweet, smiling face. We try to pray for each person who emails us or requests a CD-ROM commentary. It is so exciting to be able to touch so many people around the world, some for discipleship and some for initial faith! We are humbled to be part of something so big, so great, so life changing as the gospel of Jesus!



## A Letter from Peggy

I wish for you a blessed Christmas and New Year filled with peace that only Jesus can give. I am so happy to send this greeting to you, our faithful friends. Many of you have been supporting BLI with prayer and monetarily for over 30 years! We are so humbled for your confidence that we will use your gifts to further God's Kingdom on earth. May the Lord bless all of you for your love and generous hearts.

Bob is continuing to write commentaries on the Old Testament books. He has completed all of the New Testament and most of the Old. As I write this letter (September) he is working on the book of Leviticus. Then he will tackle the book of Numbers!!! He enjoys studying and writing these commentaries. He remembers when God impressed upon him that this was His desire for him. He also remembers that, as a young man just surrendering his life to the Lord, he felt the desire to write commentaries on the Bible! He was not raised in the church and had very little knowledge of the Bible but he believed that this was his calling. That is quite an affirmation and he is focused on doing just that. The journey to this point has had crooks and turns, but in 1997, while still teaching at ETBU, he began to put his dream into reality. In 2003 while teaching at a seminary in Haiti Bob was urged by the Holy Spirit to put all of his sermons and teaching resources on the internet, free of charge. He was convicted that Americans have so

In August I was in El Paso teaching Hispanic pastors the book of Ephesians. This is the third year I have been with these wonderful people. Next year they have asked me to teach the book of 1 John.

I have been invited to teach Hermeneutics at the Methodist Spanish Seminary in Monterrey, Mexico in January, 2016. I so enjoy these teaching times!

God bless you and have a full and effective 2016 for Jesus' glory and Kingdom.

Love and blessings to you,  
Bob

*"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things' declares the LORD." – Jeremiah 9:23-24*

many resources available to study the Bible, but in most countries this is not so. And, if resources are available, they are so expensive the people cannot afford to buy them. If you check our website: [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org) you can see everything that we have produced since 1980. I invite you to visit our office and see what has been accomplished through BLI. It is amazing and humbling to see how God has graciously used all of us to spread His word around the world. None of this would be possible except for your prayers and gifts. Thank You.

God continues to bless our family and we are thankful that He allows us to share life with them for these days on earth. When we gather for family celebrations there are 14 of us. Michelle and John Thompson have two girls: Taylor Ann, 18, and Tiffany Lynn, 15. Jason and Shannen have Avery Grace, 11, and Noah Daniel, 9. Jeremy and Daniell have two boys: Tucker Drew, 13, and Drake Scott, 7. Thank you Lord!



**Luke 2:14** *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

# COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

*(We print these letters just as they are written. It is interesting to see how they think and the expressions they use. Their effort to write in the English language is admirable!)*

Hello Sir,

I am a relatively new Christian. I was saved a year and eight months ago when I was in India for school. Prior to that I was a staunch anti-theist who was consumed by the world. I won't get into my whole testimony but I can say with no exaggeration that I would not be alive today without the work of Jesus Christ in my life through the Holy Spirit. I wanted to email you as just a simple means of saying thank you. I recently found your Free Bible Commentary videos and it has opened up the Bible in such a powerful way. I feel like just from listening to you I am gaining more and more tools on how to understand Scripture. Thank you so much for spreading your knowledge and love for the Lord so freely. I don't want give you the reward for the Holy Spirit granting me wisdom but I sure am thankful that He guided me to your teachings. Thank you again so much sir. You have been a true blessing in my life.

Sincerely, Collin USA

Dear Friend in Christ,

*Am a student and I have now accepted in my life and I need a bible to worship the Almighty God. I was loss and I have now find God in my life. Please I need your help. Thank you for your help.*

Enock, Ghana

Dr. Utley...wow. What a point of view! From a Texas Baptist no less! I have received the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues but know it's not a "me too" kind of thing. Not everybody gets it, in my opinion it's rare and those who claim all should receive it rarely have it. Balanced, thoughtful, biblical. What an opinion you hold! Unlike another commenter here, I see you have been blessed by YHWH with a powerful prophetic gift. Babbling on about babbling on impresses nobody and numbers don't matter. Denying the truth of the Holy Spirit tongue is discouraging to those who struggle to exercise its

anointed power. My prayer is for more strong preachers with the heart & mind & chutzpah for YHWH's truth. Our denominational arrogance and personal religious experience must yield TO THE WORD OF YHWH – Jesus Christ.

*Shalom to you Christian brother. Mark*

Dear Brother Bob,

*My name is Thomas Koob writing from Germany (beforehand my apology for my rusty english).*

*Seeing some of your sermons / teachings on you tube this afternoon i had it on my mind to send you some warm-hearted greeting which i will do right now. I don't believe it was by chance, that i found some of your sermons last year. It was a sermon-jam compiled from sermons of different preachers but with one main topic. After more than two decades of working in the economy and finance sector I was led to quit my job and change to full time ministry since Jan 2014. This said - since then I had more time for further training in theology and some other disciplines - and so I found your service.*

*So just let me express, that I'm thankful for your service. You make it easy for me to follow your well-structured thoughts. As a free theologian and preacher I am aware of how much work, earnestness, prayer and spiritual effort stands behind a good preparation. You are also blessed with that right kind of humour, which makes it a joy to follow your teachings. Your [seen] testimony speaks of a spiritual humbleness, earnestness and joviality towards your students which springs from a heart that is replete with the Holy Spirit. Even when you get energetically and loud! That's not only ok, i think that it has to be this way (Proverbs 8!), in this pampered age with so much wrong voices out for our attention. So i want to do no harm to you, when i give you praise. Spurgeon said it one time "The fastest way to ruin a young preacher, is to praise his service" - despite you don't really fit in that "young" term any more!). Just kidding - you have a fresh spirit and you are looking still fine - as far as i can see! To be honest, i give*

*praise to our LORD JESUS CHRIST for you as my brother and servant to the body of Christ - but also directly to you: Thank you brother! Why i wrote this mail? Just to say that i am grateful for your service und your person. May the LORD bless you, your loved ones and your service abundantly. Greetings from the palatinate Highlands,*

*Your brother in Christ,*

*Thomas Koob from Tekoa Ministries in Germany*

Crystal and I cannot express how thankful that you enabled us to participate in the Brazil Mission Trip with International Commission. It was an incredible experience that we will never forget. We both fell in love with the country and the Brazilian people. I have been on several mission trips before, but never one that was so intentional and direct about sharing the Gospel. Crystal and I shared our testimony/the gospel over fifty times during our time there. It was incredible to see the Holy Spirit work powerfully when we stepped out in boldness to spread the Gospel. The Holy Spirit gave us the perfect words, or led us to the perfect Bible story to share. One story that I would like to share was with a lady who had the signs of drug abuse. One could tell that she was quite poor and to invite us into her home was an honor. She was excited to talk with us. However, immediately upon entering the room I felt the need to pray. When the church member finished introducing me it was time for me to begin my testimony but I asked to open with prayer and began to do so. As soon as I starting praying, this woman broke down weeping. She cried for several minutes as I continued praying, and as she cried I could hear the Spirit tell me to share the story of Jesus being anointed by the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50. As I shared the woman wept more and more, and I began to explain how Jesus viewed her, like he did the woman in the story. The woman shared her story and it was amazing how perfectly the stories matched up. I was blown away and realized it truly



**Philippians 2:8-10** *“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”*



was a complete movement of God to reach out into this woman's life. When I was sharing Bible stories of how Jesus treated the poor and neglected, the stories came alive for me too. I began to really grasp how Jesus lived with sinners and loved on those who are so often neglected (and ironically, mostly by religious leaders). Being a pastor, it is so easy to be surrounded by “perfect” Christians all the time and lose sight of the way Jesus lived, which was with those who were broken and hurting in society. We loved the structure of being paired with local churches and pastors. It is awesome to work with the ministries already established instead of setting up something else the way we prefer in America. We love our church, pastor and family and hope to return in the future. I knew that your work was great and in much need, but I never realized the extent of that need until we were in Brazil. Thank you so much for striving to give people great commentaries and teachings to help the believers and churches grow strongly in their faith and wisdom in the Lord. Once again, I cannot express how thankful I am for this trip. My wife and I can't wait to go on another one hopefully, and possibly even lead a trip in the future.

*Calvin and Crystal, Katy, TX*

*Thank you for posting this message. It definitely makes me reflect and repent for any arrogance I have felt and shown to my fellow Christians who don't believe as I do.*

*Thank you for that. Chris*

*Thank you so much for a quick reply. I said I am so impressed by your inspiring word of God. Through the good news you send me time and again I have decided to further in doing bible lessons with you. You have changed my life to another level of understanding the word of God. Will looking forward to hearing from you.*

*C. Tenderere*

Dr. Utley,

We met at the camp meeting at Lake Arthur a couple of months ago, and you gave me a box of CD's with your Bible commentary and lessons on studying the Bible. We just got back from spending a couple of weeks doing pastor training in northern Uganda near the South Sudan border, and I wanted to send you a picture from just one of the groups of pastors that were able to work with while we were there. We did a couple of conferences with Ugandan pastors from different areas in the country, and we also did two conferences in two different South Sudanese refugee camps. It was a great time of fellowship in God's Word in Africa! Your CDs were treasures for these brothers in Christ. They were extremely thankful for the gift to their ministries! Thanks again for your generous service for our Lord in equipping so many for the faithful ministry of the Word.

*Joel Williams.*



*I started to say that I ran across you and your teaching by chance but, we all know that “Chance” is not in the dictionary of God for the Christian believer. Since I am now 84 years old, I have become more intrigued with what I have missed over the years that I have known Jesus as my savior, as associated with God's word. Most of my Christian life*

*and the local church has been, and I hate to admit it, those two to three hours a week in a building listening to a pastor and/or teacher tell me what the bible says. Of course, it was in a Baptist church most of my life so I'm comfortable in what I was hearing, that in most sermons was God's word but there was no depth or real challenge to whet my appetite so that I would have a desire, on my part, to dig deeper into the bible, and be able to provide good answers to someone as to what and why I believe and where I found it in the bible. Well anyway, once I found the source of the YouTube bible teaching of Bob Utley, I suppose that one to two hours a day is used by me listening and trying to capture some of what is being presented. I have gone through the seminar several times and each time, grab something new and exciting but with an old mind it's difficult to lay hold and retain as much of it as I would like. By the way, my wife and I, of 60 years, as of June 10th have been in Anniston Bible Church since 1991. Our pastor and teachers are super and as I listen to them, it seems that their teaching and preaching parallels pretty much what you present in your preaching and teaching. Sorry for the long note but I just wanted to thank you and those that are a part of your team in making this material available to folks like me. I have been spreading the word about you and your site and if those who view any of your sermons and/or teaching, and listen and view as I have, I'm sure that they will be blessed as I am each day.*

*Ray, Alabama*

Dear Brother Bob, greetings in the name of Jesus.

I received the two Bible Commentary discs on 26 May, 2015. I want to thank you so much Brother, for what you have done to us for sending us these two discs containing wonderful materials I never dreamt of. I am a sunday school teacher at my church. I believe our lives, and our church will never be the same again. I ask you on behalf of my church to continue sending us these faith materials including a

Bible software which we can install on our PC and more bibles as well if possible.

*Henry, Kadzuwa Migowi, Malawi*

Dear Bob

*I have studied the Bible for many years I am a layman with no degrees it is refreshing to read someone's material that it is absolutely in line with God's teachings. There are many misguided misconceptions of the truth in God's Word and I feel you are a blessed follower of Christ.*

USA

Greetings in Christ!

This is Pastor Amjad Khan from Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Auckland. Thank you for connection. I'm part of Grace for Pakistan mission. We are looking to connect with Christians who can pray for our mission in Pakistan especially for the safety of our staff as it's most dangerous and difficult country for evangelism. According to the US based intelligence think-tank, Pakistan is placed eight in the list of most dangerous countries in the world. Because of the status of Pakistan not many European missionaries are interested in working there; with the result only a few missionaries visit Pakistan, mainly on a short term basis. Please remember us in your prayers.

*My name is Pastor Adam Ndaura in Namibia in southern Africa. I watch your sermons and teachings on dvd's and it incur-*

*age and build me up. I am a ordain Pastor who preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations as our Lord and Savior has instructed us to take the great commission to the whole world Matthew 28:18-20. The aim of this letter I want mentorship, ministry materials like systematic theology, homiletics, study Bibles, one laptop and anything that can help me in my ministry especially your mentorship and any help. From the servant of God,*

*Pastor Adam Ndaura, Africa*

Greetings & good day to you and your staff, in the most glorious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I do truly pray this finds you safe and in find health & spirits. I just wanted to let you/ya'll know that I'd received (and thoroughly studied/enjoyed) my copy of The "Romans" Commentary. It was a fantastic help in my Pauline studies (and will continue to be). So, thank ya'll so very much for acknowledging and especially honoring my request. Know & trust the material is and will be put to good use. My Bible College/ Seminary studies have wound down for the year and I'll begin my doctoral dissertation ("stewardship") w/in a few weeks. I'm currently awaiting ordination credentials/approval also, which I expect to have in hand this week. So, it appears I'll be at last somewhat prepared to begin ministerial/missions work prior to/upon my release in July. Again, I do truly thank you for your valuable assistance & Christian giving. Be Blessed! In His Grip & Service,

*Inmate, USA*

*I great you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*Verse-by-verse computer Bible study library will be very useful for our United Ministries Seminary students at our place. Please send one set at the above address.*

*Thanks, Rev. Dr. Kama, India*

I will appreciate anything you can send to me to help me be a better soulwinner.

**Luke 1:68-69** *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David."*

May God continue to Bless you all for your great work.

*Randy, USA*

God bless your ministry for promoting wining of lost soul with the free gift bible CD.

*Oyebanji, Nigeria*

*Actually, I'm making this request on behalf of my church, New Covenant Church, Genesis Centre. We intend adding it to the pack we want to give our first-timers. So, we will be glad if we can get more than 1 copy. Thanks.*

*Austus Ofmat, Nigeria*

Your Bible commentary has immensely increased my knowledge and understanding of the word thereby richly prospering my spiritual life.

*Joe, Germany*

*I am the Pastor of Living Faith of Christ. I always listen to your teachings online and found them informa-*

*I have tive and helping in my life and ministry. I believe that this Bible study tool will be much help.*

*Frans, S Africa*

Thank you from a poor person.

*David, OH, USA*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

May God bless you for your heartfelt service you contribute to the Kingdom of God especially for your attention in the third world like Africa.

*Mersha, Ethiopia*

*Thank you for the volumes of information you have produced through many years of*

**Isaiah 7:14** *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel."*



**Isaiah 9:6** *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**Isaiah 11:1** “*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*”

*prayer and study. I do appreciate your ministry and love for our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Eddy, USA*

I'm glad to meet you. Thank for your good work and material. I am missionary. I work church planting in Turkey and teach in Turkey Baptist Seminary.

*Taehong, Turkey*

*Your material is very helpful to our ministry. We have been using your lessons in our local churches and our pastors conference meetings. Thanks for your blessed ministry.*

*Pastor Rajesh Babu, India*

I'm really interested in Bible and I would like to get this CD. This is very important for me because I study in school with an English bias and I need to develop my English.

*Platon, Russian Federation*

*I am a new creature and need the word of God to guide my footsteps so please help me to achieve this. Thank you and God bless you,*

*Kumah Kwadwo, Ghana*

I am at a loss for words that this info is free. This is an answer to my prayers thank you so very much.

*Jackie, USA*

*I am a disabled individual who is unable get out and attend church. One of the joys of my life is my daily Bible readings and I would love to have access to deep Bible studies.*

*Vicki, USA*

We wish to be soaked with WORD, and be made manifest in our lives as the WORD was made manifested in Joshua 1:8.

*Eyong, Cameroon*

Thanks so much in advance. Just read Dr. Utley's NT Survey. Quite insightful. Thanks once again.

*Pius Udoada, Nigeria*

*Thank you, Bob for opening my eyes as a new Christian at Trinity Baptist in Lubbock 1976. I've been a radical Christian ever since.*

*Aca, USA*

I am new in the word and believe your commentary will help me to understand what the meaning God's words and what God has planned for all of his followers.

*Nancy, USA*

*I want to study more and I want to understand bible more. Therefore, I request you bible commentary book. Please help me.*

*Joshua, India*

*I am deeply passionate about Jesus I want to grow more stronger in Christ.*

*Gopal, India*

God has blessed my calling through this website with a lot of insight, courage and knowledge to strength me and made me a better prepared vessel of God.

*Gbenga Marlohs, Nigeria*

*I want to study more and I want to understand bible more.*

*It's really a help to our personal study, and it will really encourage us to be careful in dealing with*

*any particular verse but to look into as much as possible to the original writer's intent meaning to first recipient of the any particular book.*

*Stephany, Philippines*

Thank you and look forward in studying and using these to benefit God's Kingdom as I am a student and studying daily to go deeper each day. May God bless you and thank you.

*Cort, USA*

*Thank you so much for this free commentary. I am currently a seminary student and this will be a great help for me as I continue to study the word of God.*

*Belinda, USA*

I am surprised to see the Bible interpretations in so many languages. I am eager to receive and study your compilation of work you put together on CD and DVD.

*Kirk, USA*

Thank you so much! I have used the commentary online for preparation for teaching adult Sunday School. Wasn't sure I could teach the class but you made it much easier. I am learning much too. Thank you so much!

*Carolyn, USA*

We are establishing a library and so need all the Christian literatures we can. This practical application will help pastors and church leaders a great deal in this country. God Bless you richly,

*Levi-President, Patmos Mission, Cameroon*

I enjoyed your YouTube lectures and seminars. I am in Liberty University and use your help from YouTube.

*Yvonne, USA*

Thank you so much for making the word available to anyone who wants to learn about God more, being a senior citizen with limited resources this is a God send. May God supply all the needs of this ministry in Jesus name.

*Eunice, USA*

I am a pastor who just about to complete a Diploma programme in Theology. This CD-ROM information will help me in my ministry.

*Reginald, South Africa*

AMM (Albany Maritime Ministry) received Verse-by-Verse Computer Bible Study Materials from Dr. Bob Utley and Bible Lessons International, which will enrich our ministry to seamen. Notes are available in over 40 languages. We will



distribute these CD-based study materials without charge. Thank you so much.

*(This is a ministry to Seafarers from many countries. These workers come by ship and are in port for a short period of time. This ministry offers Bible resources which the men can use on the ship and hopefully take home to their families and friends. They like our commentaries because there are so many languages available. There are many of these centers around the U.S. If you would like more information on the Albany Maritime Ministry you can see their website: [www.AlbanyMM.us](http://www.AlbanyMM.us))*



I am Mintesinot Ejigu. I live in Sheka, Ethiopia. Now I am 17 years old and grade nine student. My mother name is Sebjle and I have three brothers and two sisters. I am the first son to my father and also my mother. Both my father and my mother work (job) is farming and planting coffee. My village is very small and rural area according to others which is relative to other villages (Kebb's) in Ethiopia. Above what I listed are a little information about me as introduction but I have a hope about we will exchange more informations about me and the main issue of how could I word this letter for you. My goal, dream and hobby is knowing the Bible and living with the spiritual power of the Lord Jesus Christ. I want and wish to contact to learn a Bible in your Educational line. Please understand me and help me to be one of those spiritual sons of you. God bless us!

*Greetings from Bangkok where the people are always smiling, the weather is always hot, and the food is always spicy. I trust this*

*finds you well and enjoying Indian Summer in the USA.*

*My wife and I are IMB missionaries in Bangkok, Thailand. We have been here since 2010. A long time ago we were missionaries to Austria (1988-1992). We are ETBU graduates (80, 81).*

*I am writing to let you know how much I have appreciated your online bible commentary and have used it in my teaching, preaching and training ministry. I have also recommended it to those I have the privilege of training, especially when I do hermeneutics training. I only discovered it in the last year and it has been a blessing, indeed.*

*Thanks and rejoice, Johnny*

This is Edrich Fernandes from Mangalore, India. I was in touch with you years ago when I first got a copy of your CD. We had agreed that I could give away your CDs to friends and Bible schools I teach in. I've been doing that, and was happy to receive the new combo in the mail. If you have requests for CDs in India, I would be happy to mail them from here, if you like. I can copy them and send them off. Pl. advise. And all God's best for your ministry.

*To whom this may concern: I live in Eastman, Georgia. I was wondering if you might have any free Bible Books/Lessons/Study material you can send me? I want to draw closer to the Lord because I love Him so much. I have been saved since July 2009 and I'm trying to learn all I can on my Lord and Savior Jesus. Anything would be greatly appreciated.*

Dr. Bob—Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who holds all things together, and makes everything beautiful at just the right time. I write to encourage you, and to thank you for helping make our Thailand basketball trip a slam dunk! (your gifts helped make this mission endeavor possible). Thanks again for the incredible investment of love you bless me with Dr. Bob. I pray God continues to prosper your heart, mind,

*I'm trying to learn all I can on my Lord and Savior Jesus.*

soul and strength—and continues to grow your ability to love people well!

*Charles*

*On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, I wish to acknowledge receipt of one copy of Verse-By-Verse Computer Bible Study CD-ROM which you donated to our University. We thank you for your generosity and assure you that the material will be a useful addition to our stock even as we look forward to further collaborations. Enobong Oton, Librarian, the University Library at Veritas University, Abuja ( The Catholic University of Nigeria)*

Dr. Utley,

Thank you for putting this commentary and study guide together to help us study. I have followed your guide/commentary in preparation for many lessons for the Adult Sunday School Class at Easthaven Baptist Church in Kalispell, Montana for several years and have not taken the time to express my gratitude.

*Thank you. George, Montana*



**Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*



**Romans 15:13** *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*



# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

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## THE TEXAS ASHRAM

### *A Retreat for Your Soul*

I had the privilege of teaching the Bible study for the Texas Christian Ashram ([www.christianashram.org](http://www.christianashram.org)) this summer. It was held in Scottsville, TX. The United Christian Ashram movement, developed by E. Stanley Jones, a Methodist missionary in India, celebrated its 75th year anniversary. It is a retreat for the entire family. The following is part of an article by one of the staff members.

*“Bob Utley, a retired Old Testament professor and our Texas Bible Teacher, preached the Word in such a profound way without a hint of pretention. I fear who I would be with Bob’s credentials. But he set an example for how we can approach our faith academically, emotionally, and simply in one stride. He helped me realize how I’ve lived the past four years of my life in fallacy by creating a dichotomy between*

*faith of the head and faith of the heart. While discussing the importance and overarching purpose of faith, he ended his sermon abruptly and in tears: ‘I wanna say that I love Jesus enough to die for him, but I’m not sure what I would do. And history records that Nero was upset that the Christians he killed died smiling.’ It was in that moment that I realized—more than intellect—I should want the faith of Matthew 16:24: ‘Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.’ The Holy Spirit moved during that Bible Hour in a way that opened my eyes to my corruptible intention to serve Christ and my weakness to pride. The reintegration of my head and heart came through Bob’s incredible humility and humanity.”*



*Bob and Peggy with a friend at the 2015 Texas Ashram*

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