

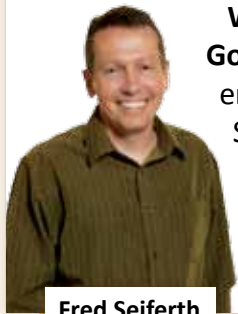


Cultivate

• A Good Soil Publication

Equipping and Resourcing you to clearly share God's story of hope in a world of competing faiths and cultures

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We are thrilled to present this inaugural issue of "Cultivate"—the Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship newsletter. We hope you are encouraged and inspired to hear how God is blessing the use of Good Soil resources all over the world. May He bless you as you initiate conversations that may lead to redemptive relationships!

Sincerely,



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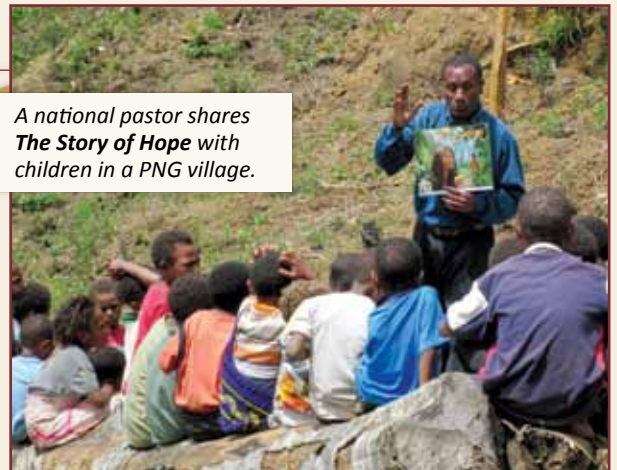
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From Fear to Faith!

Fear - it's a very real part of everyday life for many people around the world, but this is especially true for a tribal person living in the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea (PNG). In their belief system, the spirits of their ancestors occupy the rivers, trees and the world that surrounds them, controlling what happens in the physical world, both for good and for evil. They believe if the spirits are not happy they must be appeased through sacrifices or rituals. Immoral living, idolatry, animal sacrifices, even the killing of their own people is all done in the hopes of keeping the spirits at bay. Life after life is lost in this vicious cycle of bloodshed and death.

The cycle can and is being broken! Missionaries and national believers are actively telling those living in fear there of the freedom to be found in the name of Jesus Christ. **They are using the 40-event chronological overview of the Bible called *The Story of Hope* with tremendous results!** Here are just two accounts from missionary Bill Smith of how the Lord is blessing the use of Good Soil materials there with Papua New Guinea nationals:



A national pastor shares *The Story of Hope* with children in a PNG village.



Bill Smith and Mausman

"Mausman heard the story of Nicodemus and realized that even though he has been a pastor (of a false religion) for 20 years, he had religion but not salvation in Christ. He was saved at one of the clinic outreaches. Now he is encouraging his old congregation to join the new church!"

"Pastor Cliff Dickson, a national pastor, uses *The Story of Hope* material in Religious Education classes and recently had over 30 professions of faith!"

We praise the Lord for these reports and many more we're receiving just like these from all over the world. **May He also bless your efforts to move people from fear to faith wherever you live!**

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Good Soil Believer »



According to Jesus, the “good soil” believer is a person who hears God’s word and ...

- Clearly **understands** it. *Matthew 13:23*
- Sincerely **embraces** it. *Mark 4:20*
- Firmly **holds on** to it. *Luke 8:15*

From A Pastor:

Brian Sheldon— Chaffee, NY

“Just so that you know, when we came home from the Good Soil Seminar, we used the 40 prints while telling the story in about 7 minutes, just as we did during the training. We wanted the congregation to know what we had learned. I was delightfully surprised as to how well the presentation was received. After that service, many people commented on how much they liked it...they quickly realized that the story makes much more sense when told in order and the stories that are in the Bible are not just hit and miss, but an interconnected series of events that tell a bigger more important story. As pastor, I am also contemplating the power point version for a Sunday morning series...”

Seminar Segment

By: Fred

I went out to lunch with my wife recently to celebrate my birthday. I love sushi so we went to a new Japanese restaurant that had just opened. We were warmly greeted at the door by an Asian man named Roland who explained the menu to us and showed us to our table. His English was quite good, but it was obvious that it was not his first language. **I took the opportunity to “peel the onion”** with Roland and asked him what country he was born in. He smiled widely and said “China!” I commented that his English was very good, and asked how long he’d been here. Smiling even wider now, he told me just over one year. I really was amazed since his English was so good, and again complimented him on how well he was doing. He obviously wanted to keep talking, but needing to get back to work, he excused himself and went back to his duties.

Our server Jenny was also very nice, and we enjoyed getting to know her a bit as well. After things slowed down a little (except for my sushi eating!), I noticed that Roland was talking about us with Jenny. It turns out **they were amazed at how nice my wife and I were being to them!** I, of course, was so thankful to hear that but was also pained to think that most people don’t take the time to get to know folks like that, or worse yet, even show them common courtesy. My wife and I discussed over the rest of lunch how important it is for us to come back to get to know them better. To our complete surprise Roland then brought out a birthday cake that he had specially prepared for me! It was big enough for all of the staff to have a piece.

What a wonderful way to celebrate my birthday with my new friends Roland, Jenny and Ming. As we were saying our goodbyes, I noticed in the corner of the lobby a little Buddhist shrine that is so common at Asian restaurants. My prayer is that the conversations and relationships that we started may someday lead to redemptive relationships. **Don’t miss out on opportunities God is giving you to “peel” some onions!**



L to R: Roland, Fred, Jenny, Ming
Roland is the manager/host and Jenny was our server.

“Using The Story of Hope has revolutionized my personal evangelism!” –Tim in Inner City D.C.

Interact at »



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Letters from the Field:

Good Soil in Español!

Here are some photos from one of the **first Good Soil training seminars conducted in Spanish** in the United States. Twenty-three leaders of the First Baptist Church Español of Elkhart, Indiana completed the Good Soil Basic course in Spanish, including the pastor. Carl Sexton and Mike Tabor, both veteran ABWE



Carl Sexton leading the Good Soil Seminar in Spanish.

missionaries to Spanish-speaking countries, partnered up to deliver the quality teaching for this monumental endeavor.

The Elkhart Spanish congregation will soon begin studying through *The Story of Hope* with 100 Hispanic adults and 30 teens. **These dear people are absolutely elated about using the Good Soil materials** as well as training their people to share God's plan of redemption with their non-Christian family and friends. But that's not all! The pastors of the English congregation have caught wind of the enthusiasm in the Hispanic congregation and are now interested in using the Good Soil material with their folks, too! What an exciting development.



Spanish-speaking church leaders enjoying the Good Soil training. Elkhart, IN.

Carl told us he's extremely optimistic that this is the first of many Good Soil training seminars that he and others will lead in Spanish here in the USA and other countries. In fact, three other Spanish-speaking churches are firming up dates with him for training this year, with others showing interest. Do you know of any churches that could use Good Soil training in Spanish? *If so, please contact us so that we can start putting things into motion.*

New Resources!

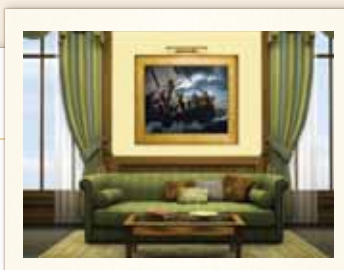
www.GoodSoil.com/Resources

The Story of Hope in PowerPoint

20, 40 or 100 event presentations with each stunning image framed and matted in an artistic way to visually strengthen your delivery of God's word. Includes the Bible maps and the Chronological Bridge to Life. All text can be translated and changed in PowerPoint for audiences of languages other than English. **Available for download now at www.GoodSoil.com/Resources.**



Good Soil
Evangelism & Discipleship
COLLECTION



Tell God's story of redemption through a beautifully framed Good Soil art print in your church or home.

Choose from any of the 100 images, select a frame from multiple styles and sizes, and preview what your framed picture will look like before you order. The framed art print will be mailed directly to the address you specify. **Very economically priced!**

Giclée prints
starting at \$28.95

View the full gallery of images:
www.GoodSoil.com/Artprints



Mark your calendars!

Interactive and Fun Learning!

Good Soil Seminars **May 15 - 17, 2012**

These are the core seminars to really get you going with Good Soil! Learn the Biblical foundation for **how to clearly and effectively share the gospel** as God's story of hope in a world of competing faiths and cultures.

Bible Storytelling **May 18, 2012**

People love a good story. Hollywood sure knows this! God does, too, and gave us the best story ever told. Come **learn how to tell engaging Bible stories** in a way that people will listen and understand.

The Roots of Faith **June 11 - 15, 2012 - Old Testament** **June 18 - 22, 2012 - New Testament**

The Roots of Faith is a **chronological Bible survey of God's redemptive plan**, consisting of two courses: *The Roots of Faith - Old Testament* and *The Roots of Faith - New Testament*. It is a study of God's progressive revelation of major theological concepts, especially those closely related to mankind's spiritual needs and God's plan of salvation. Altogether these courses include lessons that feature 100 major Bible events from Genesis to Revelation.

