



# 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

February 2013

In 2012 we trained nearly 2000 people through our Good Soil workshops and seminars! About 500 of those were national believers in Haiti, Spain, Ukraine, Brazil and the Philippines. The total number easily doubles or triples if we include those trained by our coworkers around the globe. Please join us in praising Him for blessing our work in 2012 and praying 2013 is just as fruitful for His glory!

Sincerely, *Wayne, Fred, Gil*



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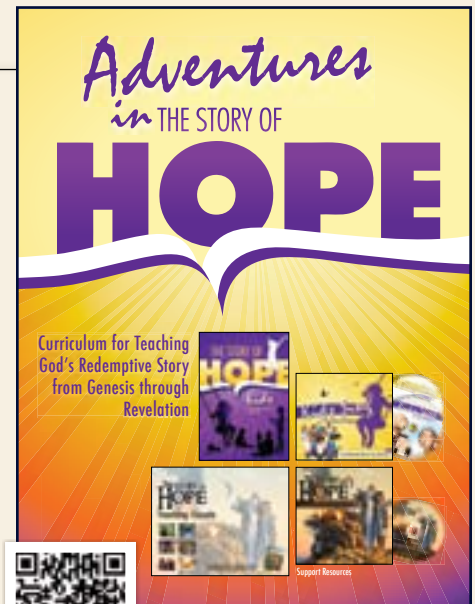
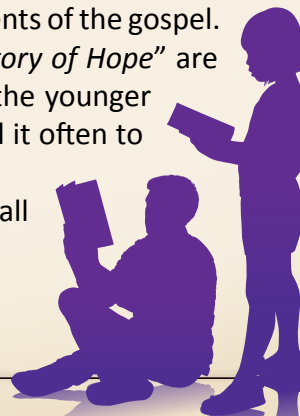
## New Curriculum for Children!

We are extremely excited to announce the launch of our new children's curriculum "Adventures in the Story of Hope!" Perfect for a church program, homeschool or family study with your child, "Adventures" is anchored in the chronological Bible format for which Good Soil materials are known. Complete with lesson plans for the teachers, a children's adaptation of *The Story of Hope*, memory verses, crafts, 12 songs, fun ways to tell each story, activities, and much more, your kids will buzz with excitement while learning the truths from God's word! There's even a unique way for children to tell the story to their own friends and family called "My Story of Hope." It is our desire that these stories from the Bible, twenty from the Old Testament and twenty from the New Testament, will be told to children around the world. When children hear these stories, they will learn the truth that God has had one plan from the beginning of time to redeem men and women, boys and girls to Himself.

An important new support resource for "Adventures" is the 2-CD set "Kids Sing the Story of Hope." The 12 songs are kid-tested, kid-approved fun ways to retell the story time after time as they sing the catchy tunes. Ten of the songs have a theme chorus which ties several Bible events together. Each verse recaps an event. Two of the songs (*God's Big Story* and *Chrono-Bridge Song*) help kids learn the eight essential elements of the gospel.

Those who have worked on "Adventures in the Story of Hope" are praying that this new resource will help you teach the younger ones who follow you to tell the story well and to tell it often to their friends.

Please visit [www.GoodSoil.com/Adventures](http://www.GoodSoil.com/Adventures) for all the info you'll need to get started!



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**Good Soil**  
Evangelism & Discipleship

## 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 Missionary:

Serving in Peru, South America

“Dear Good Soil Team - As we share God’s word using **The Story of Hope** chronological Bible study with the deaf and the hearing, we are seeing encouraging results. A lady from the Saturday night study told me that **it is the first time she has understood the Bible!** We just finished the overview of the Old Testament and will begin the New Testament this week. Please continue to pray for spiritual understanding and new birth in this group.”

## Seminar Segment



Where we begin sharing God’s story of hope strongly depends on how much of God’s Word the listener already understands. Let’s take a look at Acts chapter 14 to meet the Greeks at Lystra. Most first-century Greeks lived in fear of their gods, which were often selfish and cruel. In their stories man was often caught in the destructive paths of the gods. In Acts 14 we see that the Apostle Paul miraculously healed a crippled man. The Greeks immediately believed him to be their god Hermes, and his companion Barnabas to be Zeus. Their fear of these “gods” was so great that the priest of Zeus immediately brought oxen and garlands to perform a sacrifice to appease them! Paul and Barnabas were distraught with this misunderstanding and exclaimed “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that **you should turn from these vain things to a living God**, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.”

### Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Scale (lower portion)

Counts cost of a faith response	-1
Confronted with a faith response	-2
Senses personal spiritual conviction	-3
Understands some gospel concepts	-4
Interested in Jesus and the gospel	-5
Exposed to other Christian concepts	-6
Realizes there is only one true God	-7
Vulnerable to false religious beliefs	-8
Seeks to fill personal spiritual void	-9
Senses personal spiritual emptiness	-10
Aware of higher Power or powers	-11
Born with a God-Vacuum	-12

Greeks at Lystra

Consider the Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship Scale which is partially pictured here. The Greeks had little to no knowledge of the God of the Bible, although they were aware of a higher Power and were seeking to fill their spiritual void. This would place them somewhere between -11 and -8 on this scale. To correct their misunderstanding Paul and Barnabas were forced to go all the way back to Genesis Chapter 1 and establish that the living God of the Bible is the Creator and man is His creation. In this instance it does not appear that they mentioned anything about Jesus Christ at all.

Do you know people who believe in myths or superstitions, living in fear just like the Greeks? Do they have little to no knowledge of the Bible but are seeking to fill their spiritual void? Perhaps starting in Genesis Chapter 1 is appropriate for them. **Laying the foundation properly that the living God is the Creator and man is His creation may be exactly what’s needed to help them put the rest of God’s story of hope in order.**



### Good Soil Info:

Read more online:  
[www.GoodSoil.com](http://www.GoodSoil.com)



### Facebook:

Become a fan and keep informed at:  
[Facebook.GoodSoil.com](https://www.facebook.com/GoodSoil.com)



# Letters from the Field:

## Good Soil in the Philippines

We're excited to be sending a team this April to train Filipino seminary professors and Christian educators so that they may train others to use Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship resources! Following are some recent words from our main national partner Ariel Abadiano (pictured here in the black shirt) who is spearheading this effort. "We praise God for your continued pursuit with us to develop effectiveness among pastors, Christian educators and mission leaders in areas of leadership, evangelism and missions. These required lots of collaboration and could have not been done without your faithful involvement. **We were just able to train in the past two weeks more than 400 pastors** in Lingayen Pangasinan, Metro Manila and Puerto Princesa Palawan through Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship workshops. These were well appreciated and will be very useful tools in their respective ministries. Please pray for a continued ministry with them in the future. Thank you again for your concern and involvement in the Lord's work in Asia."



Our Filipino national partners pictured with Gil Thomas; Ariel Abadiano (in the black shirt) is spearheading the effort to train Filipino seminary professors and Christian educators to use Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship resources."

## New Resources! [www.GoodSoil.com/Resources](http://www.GoodSoil.com/Resources)



### The Roots of Faith Courses

If there were an interactive, fun way to learn how God's plan for redemption progressively unfolds from Genesis through Revelation, would you take it? Our highly interactive curriculum provides the foundation for success for *The Roots of Faith* courses, which take place over two weeks — one week each for the Old and New testaments — at ABWE's Training Center outside Harrisburg, Pa. This is not just a chronological Bible survey: **it's also a biblical theology course that progressively develops and gets deeper and broader as you go.** This year's dates are June 10-14 (OT) and June 17-21 (NT).

*The Roots of Faith* courses are open to everyone, from missionaries and pastors to those who may have never had a chance to take a Bible course.

**We hope to attract a diverse group of people from many different backgrounds, all of whom possess a desire to gain a more profound understanding of Scripture.** Those taking the course — generally about 30 to 40 individuals in total — work together with others at their tables, tackling activities that help them learn together. Please consider joining us this June! For more info, including sample lessons, please visit [www.GoodSoil.com/Roots](http://www.GoodSoil.com/Roots).

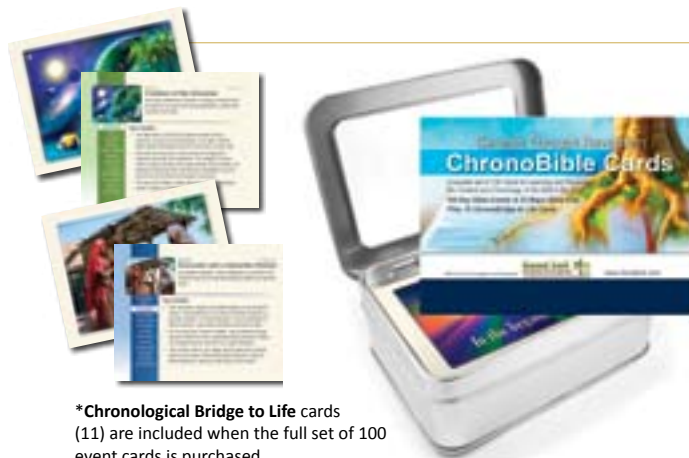


### The Roots of Faith

OT Lesson Sample



NT Lesson Sample



\*Chronological Bridge to Life cards (11) are included when the full set of 100 event cards is purchased.

### The Roots of Faith ChronoBible Cards

These pocket-sized cards can be used in a multitude of ways to help people learn and review key content for all 100 events covered in *The Roots of Faith* courses. Each card has the corresponding illustration on the front and a summary of the event on the back. Use them for self-study, around the family dinner table, or with friends to deepen your understanding and retention of how God's redemptive plan is woven from Genesis through Revelation.

## Mark your calendars!

*Interactive and Fun Learning!*

### Good Soil Seminars

**May 14 - 16, 2013**

The two-day Basic and one-day Trainer Certification seminars will really get you going with Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship! 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 17, 2013**

People love a great 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 of all ages will listen and understand His story of hope.

### The Roots of Faith

**June 10 - 14, 2013 - Old Testament**  
**June 17 - 21, 2013 - 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 & 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.

