



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

September 2013

The task the Lord has blessed us with to equip and resource Christians like you to clearly share God's story of hope is keeping us quite busy! This newsletter overviews just a few of the new resources and activities around the world that are keeping our plate full. We wouldn't have it any other way, though, as we co-labor with you to bring people to the Lord. **Our prayer is that you will continue to "initiate conversations which may become redemptive relationships."** We'd love to hear how He's blessing your efforts to do that, so please drop us a line!

Sincerely, Wayne Gil Fred



Wayne Haston

wayne@abwe.org
717.909.2397

Gil Thomas

gthomas@abwe.org
717.909.2347

Fred Seiferth

fred@abwe.org
717.909.2444

Correcting False Beliefs in Liberia

This past January Good Soil trainers Wayne Haston and Fred Seiferth went to Liberia, West Africa to train over forty national church leaders from all over the country in Good Soil principles. This was not a small task because fragments of Christianity have existed there for close to 200 years. Over the years, though, a lack of solid teaching due to political and economic instability, wars and other factors has resulted in the truths of the Bible being twisted and mixed with other traditional African beliefs to result in a serious condition called syncretism. Unraveling God's truth from false teachings can be very difficult. **Since the initial seminar in January, ABWE resident missionaries have been teaching through "The Roots of Faith", a 100-event chronological study of the Bible, with very exciting results!** By studying through just the first three chapters of Genesis, Stephen Poindexter and Gary Kittredge uncovered several false beliefs, even among some of the national pastors. Here are just a few:

1. Satan and Eve were lovers in the Garden of Eden and this is where sin came from.
2. God created two Adams - one good and one evil.
3. Because man was formed from the dust of the ground, he has to be buried in the dirt a certain way or he will not go to heaven.

Through careful study of God's Word, the students are clearly seeing their misunderstandings and embracing the truth. As Gary Kittredge puts it, **"A Biblical understanding of vital truths provides good soil for deep roots of faith."** Amen, Gary, we couldn't have said it better! Lord willing, Fred Seiferth will be returning this January to lead another round of seminars for the pastors and further strengthen the church leaders of this nation to clearly teach God's Word accurately.



Fred takes time to provide a little more specific instruction for the participants at one table.



Good Soil Seminar - Liberia 2013



Please visit www.GoodSoil.com/Roots for more info on *The Roots of Faith*. If you are interested in helping to provide resources for these national pastors by making a financial gift, please contact Fred at fred@abwe.org.

In this issue:

- Good Soil in Liberia! 1
- Seminar Segment 2
- Online Interaction 2
- Good Soil in New York City . . 3
- New Resources 3
- Mark Your Calendars 4



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:

Serving in Springfield, Ohio

“I wanted to let you know we had our first Good Soil training event this past weekend. We had a lot of positive responses from people. In general, many are excited that we’re talking about evangelism. There’s a lot of excitement, too, about our church-wide campaign in the fall to simultaneously preach through ‘**The Story of Hope**’ and have our Adult Bible Fellowships and Sunday School classes teaching the same story on the same day. Thanks. God has used you to develop great tools!”



Good Soil Info:

Read more online:
www.GoodSoil.com



Facebook:

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

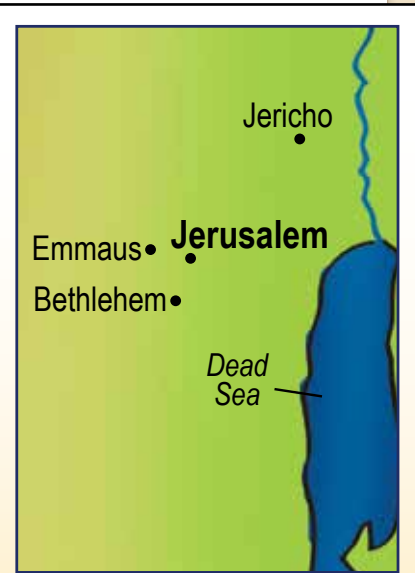
Seminar Segment

Where did Jesus begin when He explained God’s redemptive plan to people? On at least one occasion **Jesus apparently thought that a correct understanding of the Old Testament was essential to truly understand His life, death and resurrection.** Luke 24:13-27 holds the account of two of His disciples walking from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus three days after His crucifixion. They were quite distraught because the One that they thought was going to restore Israel to its former glory was dead. To add to their confusion and anxiety, now they were hearing reports that Jesus was alive!

Luke records that the resurrected Jesus joined them along the road, but did not initially reveal His identity to them. Instead, He asked them why they were so sad. When they shared the reason for their anguish, He rebuked them by saying “*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?*” **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”** (Luke 24:25-27, NKJV).

What events or passages from “Moses and all the Prophets” (referring to the Old Testament) do you think that Jesus may have used to explain how He was the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan? We don’t know exactly, but perhaps He started with Genesis 3:15 to explain His conquering of Satan. He may have discussed how the Messianic prophecies were all about Him. The list of Old Testament passages that point to Him can go on and on.

We believe that a clear understanding of key Old Testament events and passages also helps people today to fully grasp who Christ is and what He’s done for us. In fact, we are receiving report after report of people coming to a saving faith in Jesus Christ through the use of our chronological Bible study “*The Story of Hope*”. We encourage you to take a look, too, and discover how “Moses and all the Prophets” all clearly point to redemption through the One called Jesus Christ.



The Disciples’ Walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus



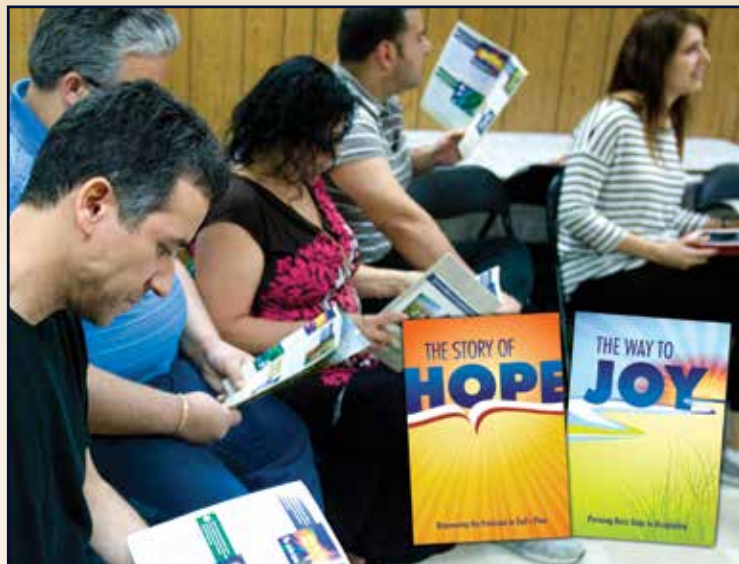
Letters from the Field:

Reaching into NYC's communities

Last October two church-planting pastors and their wives attended a Good Soil seminar at the Baptist Bible Seminary in Clarks Summit, PA. Since then these CityView Baptist Church leaders in Astoria, Queens, New York (www.CityViewAstoria.org) have launched their first small groups in the community, using “*The Story of Hope*” and “*The Way to Joy*” as an evangelism & discipleship-based approach to the groups.

From Pastor Rob Rodriguez: “The Good Soil materials are highly versatile. **The colorful pictures, the updated PowerPoints, and the quality of the lessons**

really allow us to either go fast or slow down and just ask some very pointed questions... We now have a multi-lingual group that meets on Tuesday evenings and a primarily Portuguese-speaking group that meets on Thursdays. These are exciting times for our church plant!” We’re so thankful to see how the Lord is using Good Soil training and resources to further His gospel around the world, and pray for His blessings on CityView Baptist Church.

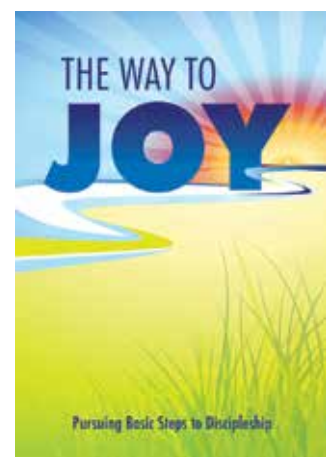
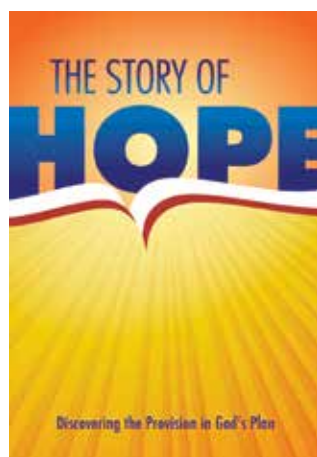


New Resources! www.GoodSoil.com/Resources



Free ESL Leader's Guide

We are excited to announce the release of the FREE “*The Story of Hope*” English as a Second Language (ESL) Leader's Guide. The material is primarily designed for intermediate to advanced-level ESL students and is based on the North American English (not Global English) version of “*The Story of Hope*”. You may download the file for free at: www.GoodSoil.com/resources/free-ed-resources



Fresh New Covers - Same Content!

Our two primary evangelism and discipleship resources have both received facelifts. “*The Story of Hope*” also has redesigned maps and both tools have redesigned inside pages that really make the lessons “pop”! Want more space for writing your answers in “*The Story of Hope*”? Then consider using the new workbook, where each event has a full page devoted to it.

The Story of Hope Workbook



Now Available!

The Story of Hope - Simplified Chinese

This is a strategic translation to help reach the estimated one billion people that read Simplified Chinese.

Mark your calendars!

Engaging, Interactive and Fun Learning!

Moving Beyond Lecture **October 21 - 22, 2013**

Are you frustrated with the lack of audience involvement in your presentations? Do you desperately want to minimize lecturing but are not sure what to do differently? *Moving Beyond Lecture* will equip you to design presentations and training sessions that will consistently engage participants and greatly enhance their learning.

Good Soil Seminars **October 23 - 25, 2013**

The two-day Basic and one-day Trainer Certification seminars will 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.

The Roots of Faith **June 16 - 20, 2014 - Old Testament** **June 23 - 27, 2014 - 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.

