



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

April 2014

New resources, enhanced training, and more translations available. Lord willing, these steps will help you and your church share your faith in a way that makes sense, so people will truly understand what God has made available to them. For updates on all the latest developments please check out our latest interactive catalog at www.GoodSoil.com.

Sincerely,



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Impacting Eternity in Asia!



Mr. Ah Kwang learning about God by studying *The Story of Hope*.

Have you heard of Ah Kwang? Probably not. He's just one man among the seven billion other people currently living in the world. He may as well be nameless. In fact, **it wasn't too long ago he was homeless** and destitute living on the streets of Singapore. Why do we ask? His story actually starts in the Philippines. Trainer Gil Thomas led a Good Soil evangelism seminar there in early 2010 with a Singaporean named John Ching in attendance. John is passionate about bringing people to Christ so he took the basic Good Soil seminar and learned how to teach it himself. He went home to Singapore and immediately put things into motion by training several people including two young women named Adalena Koh and Pei Yann.

These two ladies visit people living in a home for the elderly to teach them God's big story of redemption. They use *The Story of Hope* as well as fun, interactive teaching methods. One day last year Adalena found Ah Kwang when he was homeless and arranged for him to live in the home. **He began to attend the chronological Bible study and learned about the one eternal God** who is also his loving Father. (To watch a short video clip of the study with Ah Kwang visit www.GoodSoil.com/Singapore)

Later, at one of *The Story of Hope* Bible studies, Ah Kwang trusted Christ as his personal Savior! A short time later he slipped into eternity while sleeping in his warm bed. How exciting to know that despite such a difficult, seemingly hopeless life, he came to know two kind women who cared about the unlovely, found him a place to live and shared Christ with him.

We receive stories like this from all over the world. We train people in evangelism and discipleship. They train others. People learn to share the gospel clearly with those around them. God draws those people to Himself and they trust in Christ as their Savior. Eternity is impacted. **Please consider joining us for one of our upcoming seminars** or using one of our resources to share God's love clearly with someone who is waiting to hear. Even though we may not know their names, God does, and He wants to use you to bring them to Himself.



Teaching the people living in the home for the elderly about God's big story of redemption by using *The Story of Hope*.

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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:

Serving in Van Wert, Ohio

“My three days with you at the last Good Soil Seminar changed my life and has already changed our church! I told our church with tears in my eyes how overjoyed I am to see many people walking through the church building with Bibles and a copy of **The Story of Hope** in their hands! We now have church members ordering the materials to share with unsaved relatives, friends, and neighbors!”



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

How should our evangelism efforts differ when talking with someone who knows little to nothing about God and the Bible as compared with talking with someone who understands quite a bit about the true gospel but has not yet placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior? In other words, **should our conversations be different if it is time to “Till the Soil” instead of “Reap the Harvest?”** We need to consider these important questions when we prepare to “share the gospel” with someone.

Consider the situation where you are talking with a person who has a very good understanding of the basic gospel principles. In this instance he or she has a good level of knowledge concerning: 1) the one true Creator God, 2) sinful man’s need of redemption and 3) the sacrifice of Jesus Christ paying the penalty for mankind’s sins. Still, this person has not yet placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. What



Learn how to tailor your evangelism efforts based upon the worldview and knowledge level of the listener!

The next Good Soil Seminar is May 20 & 21!

does he need to know or understand to make this decision? Perhaps such things as coming to realize that Jesus died on the cross for his *personal sins*, not just in some broader general sense. Perhaps he needs to consider the brevity of life in which none of us are promised another day. At this point the person mostly needs to know how the truth of these matters specifically applies to his or her own personal life.

However, this may not be the case with someone who knows very little about the God of the Bible. Now consider that you are speaking with someone who has a polytheistic background in which people believe in millions of gods, such as Hinduism. Telling this person that life is short so they should trust in Jesus as their Savior may not have the same impact as it might have on the person described in the previous paragraph. Why? Because **this person does not yet understand** that there is only one true God that he or she will be accountable to at death. Helping this person to understand that there is one true God instead of 30 million false ones is a big step and is hard work! That is why we call this “Tilling Evangelism” since it is similar to what a farmer must do to break up the hard ground before planting seeds.



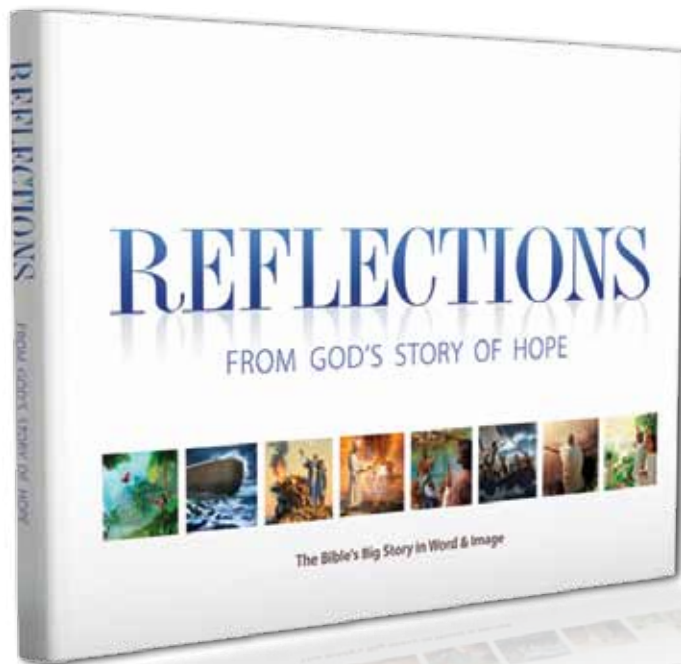
Letters from the Field:

From a missionary in Ecuador:

"I have been doing *The Story of Hope* evangelistic Bible study with my next-door neighbor, Joelle, who is 16 years old. She learned a lot as we went through the Old Testament part of the study, but when we got to the last Old Testament event titled "Prophecies about a future Messiah," it all clicked for her. She understood what Christ did for her with His death on the cross, and wanted to thank Him for it, so she trusted in Christ that day as her personal Savior! Praise the Lord, for He is at work! Thank you for your continued prayers for Joelle. I gave her a Bible, and she is enjoying reading it."

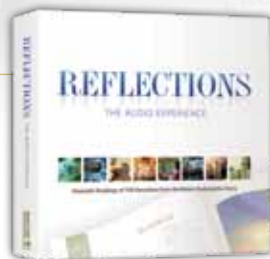


New Resources! www.GoodSoil.com/Resources



Reflections From God's Story of Hope *The Big Story of the Bible in a Coffee Table Book*

Reflections beautifully unfolds God's plan for mankind by tying together 50 Old Testament and 50 New Testament events into one redemptive storyline. Starting from the book of Genesis and going all the way through Revelation, readers of all ages and backgrounds will easily see how paradise was lost and how Jesus Christ will triumphantly restore all things.



Coming Soon!

**Reflections
Audio CD Pack**

Listen to the Bible's big story in your car, home, as you run or ride your bike, and wherever you have your phone or CD device. *Reflections, the Audio Experience* will be available as a CD pack or as an MP3 download in late 2014.

You are Invited!

Engaging, Interactive and Fun Learning!

Good Soil Seminars **May 20-22, 2014**

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 23, 2014**

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 be engaged by His story of hope.

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.

