



aboriginal BIBLE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010

What follows is a true story as told by two Americans who, in 1994, answered an invitation from the Russian Department of Education to teach morals and ethics (based on biblical principles) in the public schools. They were invited to teach at prisons, businesses, the fire and police departments and a large orphanage. About 100 boys and girls who had been abandoned, abused, and left in the care of a government-run program were living in an orphanage. They relate the following story in their own words:

“Two Babies in a Manger”

It was nearing the holiday season, 1994, time for our orphans to hear, for the first time, the traditional story of Christmas. We told them about Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Finding no room in the inn, the couple went to a stable, where the baby Jesus was born, and then placed in a manger.

Throughout the story, the children and orphanage staff sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word. Completing the story, we gave the children three small pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger. Each child was given a small paper square, which was cut from yellow napkins I had brought with me. No coloured paper was available in the city.

Following instructions, the children tore the paper and carefully laid strips in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel, cut from a worn-out nightgown an American lady was throwing away as she left Russia, were used for the baby's blanket. A doll-like baby was cut from tan felt we had brought from the U.S.

The orphans were busy assembling their manger as I walked among them to see if they needed any help. All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat. He looked to be about six years old and had finished his project. As I looked at the little boy's manger, I was startled to see not one, but two babies in the manger. Quickly, I called for the translator to ask the lad why there were two babies in the manger.

Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at this completed manger scene, the child began to repeat the story very seriously. For such a young boy, who had only heard the Christmas story once, he related the happenings accurately ~ until he came to the part where Mary put the baby Jesus in the manger. Then Misha started to ad-lib. He made up his own ending to the story as he said...

continued on next page.....

TWO BABIES IN A MANGER

....continued from previous page

"...And when Mary laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mamma and I have no papa, so I don't have any place to stay. Then Jesus told me I could stay with him. But I told him I couldn't, because I didn't have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much, so I thought about what I had that maybe I could use for a gift. I thought maybe if I kept him warm, that would be a good gift. So I asked Jesus, 'If I keep you warm will that be a good enough gift?' And Jesus told me, 'If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody has ever given me.' So I got into the manger, and then Jesus looked at me and told me I could stay with him ~ for always."

As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that fell down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his little shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon nor abuse him, someone who would stay with him ~ for always.

A penetrating question arises from such a story that each of us should ask ourselves..... "What gift would I bring to the manger?" May we all, while in the midst of getting ready for the season take the time to simply offer ourselves to the Lord.

Merry Christmas!!

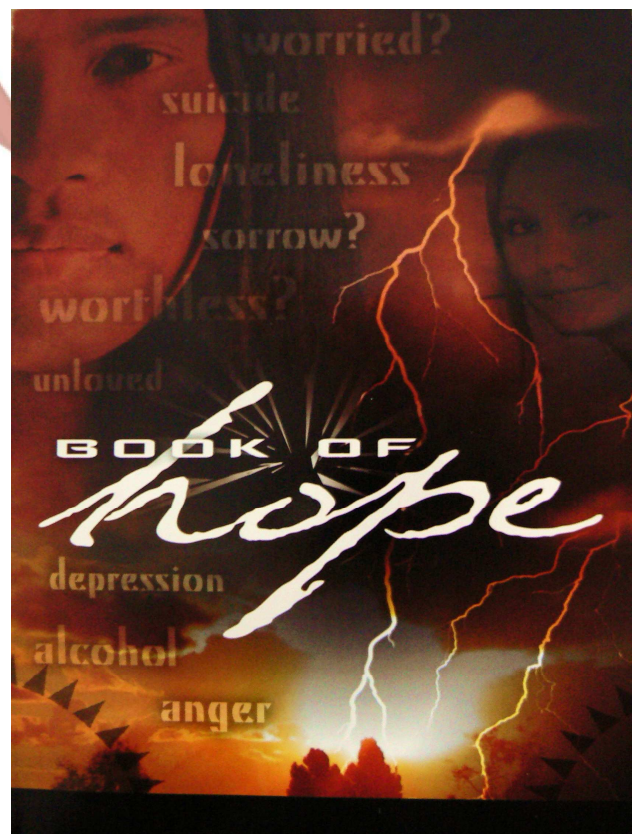
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH ABA?

GREAT NEWS!

For months now we have been promoting the latest edition of the Native Book of Hope was going to be available. Well, our shipment of 10,000 copies it has finally arrived!

Interest in the book has continued to grow as more people become aware of its usefulness as an evangelistic tool. Its simple combination of the story of God's greatest gift, the gift of His Son Jesus, coupled with stories of present day Aboriginal people who were originally filled with despair but had life changing encounters with the Jesus Christ, has proven to be an effective witness for the cause of Christ.

Copies can be obtained through our office. You can simply contact us by way of email: info@aboriginalbibleacademy.ca or phone: (613) 344-1703.



SOME MORE GREAT NEWS!



Along with the arrival of the Native Book of Hope we are also pleased to announce that the latest edition of First Things First by Keith Parks has also arrived and is available from our office.

This introductory Bible study on Christian growth has also been in high demand for some time now. For a lengthy period the only copy that our office literally had was being used for display purposes only, yet inquiries were constantly being made as to how to purchase it.

Now with a new cover, we have 2,000 copies that are available for those who wish to utilize this valuable discipleship training tool! Again, you can simply contact our office for details.

Over the past 3 months (since our last newsletter) we have witnessed some wonderful developments.



At the end of October and into November a trip was made to Surrey, BC where the opportunity to reconnect with ministry friends at the Native Pastors/Leaders Summit was afforded. It was there we had the joy of meeting and talking with prospective new students who plan on enrolling with us through the training centre that is facilitated by Pastor Deborah Chien, near downtown Vancouver.

Altar time during Native Pastors/Leaders Summit

It is so exhilarating to see how lives have been changed and are being changed by the power of God. To not only see them rescued from a life of sin but to then have a desire to equip themselves for Christian living and ministry is beautiful!



It is indeed an exciting time that we live in!

Prospective new students that will be studying in the Vancouver area

Now, the next newsletter (Spring 2011) will feature the training centre in Vancouver, BC along with a 3 generation family success story, but in the mean time, would you remember Aboriginal Bible Academy along with our current and prospective students in your prayers.

God is doing something great within the Aboriginal community and we are excited that He is allowing Aboriginal bible Academy to play a part!



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This season is a celebration of such a wonderful time of year! Christmas is special, isn't it? This past year has brought new experiences, changes, challenges and many wonderful memories of God's faithfulness! The future is bright with God's promise to "never leave us...!" *Warm Christmas greetings to you!*

These are exciting days at *Aboriginal Bible Academy*! Our journey has been blessed abundantly. For more than a year now we have enjoyed and appreciated the ministry of our full-time Director, Rev. Dan Collado. Dan represents *ABA* across Canada and the fruit of his labour is making a difference, with increased student enrolment. From Newfoundland and Labrador, all the way to British Columbia and north to Iqaluit relationships have developed and training centres are being set up. Our goal is to get the Word of God into as many lives as opportunities arise!

Your partnership is deeply appreciated and your prayers are essential to this ministry! Please continue to pray for us in the days ahead...more than 1.2 million Aboriginal people in Canada speaking over 60 different languages need to hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ! Pray for our ministry personnel as they travel, especially Dan who will go to many remote regions and communities.

Added to increased student enrolment, other significant dreams have been realized this year! 10,000 copies of the "*Native Book of Hope*" have been printed and are available for distribution. There are wonderful stories of hope in this 208-page book plus solid Bible teaching which deals with specific life issues.

In addition 2,000 copies of "*First Things First*" written by Keith Parks have been printed and are available for discipleship training. This 29-lesson study book offers excellent foundational teaching that will enhance the Christian life!

These two books are first steps to the macro picture of *ABA's* three-year theological and pastoral/leadership training courses. These books are great for new converts! Actually, they will benefit anyone! Simply place your order with us for either or both of these books and it will be processed right away. Perhaps you would like to obtain some of these books to use in your outreach ministry. For a small donation we can send you these evangelism and discipleship tools at your request. Contact our office for details.

These days and the days ahead are exciting! Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness...it is not taken for granted and your support is a blessing indeed!

Perhaps you would consider a special year-end gift to *Aboriginal Bible Academy*. Simply place it in the enclosed envelope and mail it to us. Your help makes a difference!

On behalf of the Board - Carl Brant, Jeff Hillier, Bill Rendell, Bill Maracle and John E. Maracle we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Cal

Cal Anthony (Board Chair)

aboriginal bible academy
TYENDINAGA MOHAWK TERRITORY

120B Hwy 49, PO Box 478, Deseronto, ON K0K 1X0

Phone: 613.344.1703

Fax: 888.344-0868

Email: info@aboriginalbibleacademy.ca

www.aboriginalbibleacademy.ca