

Dear Friend:

Warmest Christian greetings!

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15) It is a joy indeed to greet you at this very special time of year! Christmas is such a wonderful celebration and it is the most significant reality when Christ is alive in our hearts!

As you have already noticed, there has been a name change! We are now Aboriginal Bible Academy (ABA)! 2009 has brought other changes. In July Rev. Dan Collado was appointed by the Board as the Director of ABA. Dan comes from an Aboriginal ministry background having pastored in Weagamo Lake, Ontario for 2 years and Rankin Inlet, Nunavut for 10 years. Most recently, Dan served as the Assistant Pastor at Evangel Temple, Napanee for 3 years. He lives with his wife, Belinda and 2 sons, Taylor and Sydney, in Napanee. This is a faith ministry and Dan raises his personal support for this Missions endeavour. We are grateful to the Lord for leading Dan to this vital ministry!

The challenges of Aboriginal ministry are absolutely enormous! There are more than 1.2 million in Canada, many with needs that are indescribable! It is our goal to train Aboriginal leaders with solid, Bible teaching so they, in turn, can reach out and spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can see more about the training program in this newsletter issue.

Thank you for your prayerful support of this ministry and also to those who have already partnered financially with us. It is so very close to our hearts and your commitment makes it possible to continue! If you haven't already, perhaps you would consider a year end Christmas financial gift to Aboriginal Bible Academy? An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. We are deeply grateful for anything you can do! Your prayers and financial assistance are such a great blessing to us!

On behalf of the Board of Directors it is my privilege to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with God's abundant blessings!

Cal Anthony
Board Chair

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aboriginal BIBLE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

"Ask of me and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance and the ends of the earth for Your possession." (Psalm 2:8 NKJV)

What an amazing promise God the Father reveals to us concerning the sovereignty of His Son, Jesus Christ. The nations are indeed Christ's inheritance and to the very ends of the earth, ALL is in His possession!

Now, in Christian circles we often adopt this passage as our own promise as children of God to "claim" as it were the nations of our world for Christ. A closer look at the word "nations" – a word that in our present day conjures up images of political and geographical borders – reveals that perhaps a more accurate understanding is found in the concept of "tribes" and "people groups". Our Lord actually has as His inheritance every tribe and people group! It is with this revelation in mind that Aboriginal Bible Academy desires to reach Christ's inheritance of every tribe and first peoples groups of Canada.

Aboriginal Bible Academy (ABA), formally known as Native New Life Training Centre, was founded in 1978 with its original purpose of training First Nations people to become effective communicators of the gospel. It continues to be our mandate to serve all Canadian Aboriginal people (First Nations, Métis & Inuit) with the purpose of helping to train and equip indigenous leadership for Christian ministry. However, we are also able to assist any individuals (regardless of Aboriginal status) who desire to study through a distance education system. Whether God has called you to minister from the pulpit or the pew, ABA has the courses you can use to improve your understanding and presentation of God's Word. These inspirational and practical courses use the local church and community as a "learning lab" for the student to apply the knowledge and principles they are gaining.

It certainly has been an exciting journey as the ministry has gone through an extensive re-launching over the past number of months. We have promoted the ministry, by having a presence at the most recent Eastern Ontario District conference in May of this year, as well as the Missions' Fiesta held in Cobourg, ON in July.

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We sadly had to say goodbye to Lorna Maracle-Dodge in October who had been the academic coordinator for a number of years. Lorna had been instrumental in continuing to bring awareness of the ministry to the public as well as helping to coordinate enrolment and curriculum for our students. She had a wonderful rapport with women's groups across Canada and represented ABA well. However, she felt the Lord was releasing her to step down from her duties and we pray that the Lord would bless Lorna for her years of service and dedication.

Early in October afforded the opportunity to have a presence during Church on the Hill's missions convention in Cobourg. The permission to have a display set up for the Sunday morning service and to be part of the luncheon that followed was a great time of fellowship and relationship building. Later that month ABA was privileged to be part of Agincourt Pentecostal Church's missions convention. We had great representation and were able to make some meaningful connections. While November brought the wonderful

privilege of participating in the annual Aboriginal Summit held in Prince George, BC, which is sponsored by the BC & Yukon District of the PAOC.

God's blessing has been undoubtedly evident over this past year and we

welcome your ongoing support in prayer for Aboriginal ministry. As doors continue to open for servant opportunities we humbly ask that you consider bringing Aboriginal Bible Academy before the Lord – that spiritual, financial and logistical needs are met. Thank you for helping to mobilize participation in the furthering of biblical studies through Aboriginal Bible Academy. Your willingness to play a part is unquestionably helping to reach Christ's inheritance.



Agincourt Missions Convention Display

aboriginal summit

November 5th to the 8th was an exciting time in ABA's schedule this past year. The BC & Yukon District of the PAOC was sponsoring its annual Aboriginal Summit during this time, which took place in Prince George, BC (about an hour plane ride north of Vancouver). Initially our presence was to simply honour some students and their local facilitator who have



VANCOUVER TRAINING CENTRE Local Facilitator Deborah Chien with students

been a part of our distance education program since almost the beginning. We also sought the opportunity to build relationships with our brothers and sisters over in the west. The result was more than we could have hoped for as God's timing was clearly evident in the connections and networking opportunities that presented themselves.

Not only were we able to connect with a couple of our

students but we were also able to honour their scholastic accomplishments. Time during the Friday evening's service was graciously afforded to us in order to present both Michael Hopp and Solomon Nicolas with Certificates of Completion for Level I in the Ministerial Studies Diploma program. To get to this point in their studies is a great achievement. Their personal testimonies strongly echo the power of God – details of which will be shared in a future communiqué.

We were also able to honour Vancouver Training Centre's facilitator, Pastor Deborah Chien who has quite simply performed an admirable service in leading her students through their studies. The heart of service that Deborah has demonstrated over the years for helping to develop indigenous leadership, is exemplary. Her passion to see Aboriginal led ministry initiatives take place is God given and we pray that the Lord would continue to bless her endeavours.



Michael Hopp receiving Level I Completion Certificate



MICHAEL HOPP Vancouver Training Centre Student



DEBORAH CHIEN Vancouver Training Centre Local Facilitator



SOLOMON NICOLAS Vancouver Training Centre Student



Solomon Nicolas receiving Level I Completion Certificate

While at the Summit, a number of great connections were forged with pastors, lay leaders and even district officials. Whether it was around a dinner table or at our display table, we had the privilege of having several conversations concerning ABA ministry even to the point of being permitted some time to address the whole conference floor as it pertained to how we could come along side their existing ministry efforts and assist in helping to train indigenous leadership.

The potential of networking with native churches and leaders across the province of BC certainly became more of a reality as a result of our trip. On more than one occasion, conversation surrounded the need to work together. "We are all in this together. Let's do it...together!" Opportunity was also given to pray for our nation's unity. During one of the components of Saturday's evening service, a "Unity Flag" for Canada was presented with all the provincial flags sewn closely together with our nation's flag above them all. It represented the determined common vision of the Summit in seeing unity from sea, to sea, to sea through Jesus Christ.

Now, we would be remiss if we did not extend our heart

felt gratitude to Rev. Ken Russell (BC & Yukon District Superintendent), as well as Rev. Edgar Lapeciros (Executive Director of Cultural & Aboriginal Ministries) and to Rev. Bruce Brown (Pastor of Vancouver Native Pentecostal Church & District Presbyter of Native Churches). We were simply visitors to their Summit but never did we feel like outsiders. "Thank you!" for allowing us to be a part and participate in your fellowship.

We pray that the friendships and relationships that were established serve as a spring board for the furthering of God's glory as, "we are all in this together."

Vancouver Training Centre Students; Facilitator Deborah Chien; Asst. Sup. EOD, Cal Anthony; BC Dist. Sup., Ken Russell; President of Filipino American Fellowship (AOG), Jaren Lapasaran; BC Dist. Exec. Dir. of Cultural & Aboriginal Ministries, Edgar Lapeciros; some BC native pastors



Cal & Dan involved in presentation of Canada Unity Flag



BC Aboriginal Summit Prayer for Canada



Deborah, Dan & Cal



BC Aboriginal Summit Worship Leaders