



aboriginal BIBLE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2010

For comedians, there are some subjects that are almost too easy - sure things that will guarantee a laugh. For the late night talk show host, Jay Leno one night, it was the Bible. During the taping of one of his television shows, Leno moved through his audience asking people what they knew about the Bible. "Name one of the Ten Commandments," he said.

"God helps those who help themselves?" someone ventured.

"Name one of the apostles," Leno told them. No one could.

Finally, he asked them to name the Beatles.

Without hesitation, the answer came ringing from throughout the crowd: George, Paul, John and Ringo.

In reality, Leno really wasn't poking fun at the Bible that evening. He was actually poking fun at our society, which claims to be grounded in Judeo-Christian principles and yet - according to a number of surveys - is increasingly losing touch with the Scriptures.

One Christian professor who noted a decline in biblical literacy stated, "In order to be a Bible studier, you have to be a practicing Christian," he said. "There are a lot of un-practicing Christians."

It has been suggested that the trend can be attributed in part at least to the busyness of people's schedules. One pastor commented that, "Because of their work load and play load, people are spending less time in the Word of God."

Whatever the reason, people are not only studying the Bible less, they are even reading it less. Occasional Bible readers have declined from 79 percent of Americans in the 1980s to 59 percent, according to a recent Gallup Poll. Only 16 percent of Christians polled said they even read the Bible daily, let alone taking the time to "study" it.

So what do we do about this decline? Well, what Aboriginal Bible Academy (ABA) is endeavouring to do is make as accessible as possible the tools to not only get people to read the Word but to help them study and then apply it to their lives. Whether God has called someone to minister from the pulpit or the pew, ABA has the courses that can be used to improve their understanding and presentation of God's Word. These inspirational, practical courses use the local church and one's own community as a "learning lab" to apply the knowledge and principles the student is gaining.

continued on next page.....

HOW COULD ABA HELP YOU?

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On the last page of this newsletter you'll find details on how you can increase your own Bible knowledge and its application in everyday life, but perhaps there may be a number of you in the same local area that is interested in studying together. The layout of our curriculum permits a number of differing ways to study, be it studying independently or in a group setting (training centre). Now, that training centre can take the form of a teacher/student setup (i.e. adult Sunday School, mid-week Bible study etc) if there happens to be qualified leadership (pastor or church leaders) in your area, but a training centre can still take place even in the absence of qualified teachers. For best results though we strongly suggest that the training centre be partnered with your local church where your pastor and church leadership can oversee and keep apprised of your progress. In any event, it is paramount for a group study training centre that you meet together at least once a week (1 to 1½ hrs) while also taking the time throughout the rest of the week for independent study.

SOMETHING ELSE THAT IS GOOD NEWS!

Depending on the timing and situation, our leadership is available to even come to your area and help setup a training centre to get you started on your journey! ABA's curriculum is compiled of adult continuing education courses that are able to accommodate various learning abilities but not only are our courses suitable for personal enrichment, they are ideal even for ministerial and church leadership training!

If living a more productive Christian lifestyle and/or becoming a more effective communicator of God's Word is of interest to you then perhaps ABA has just what you need. Contact our office or visit us online to begin your journey into God's Word. Don't be another statistic.



UPDATE ON THE NATIVE BOOK OF HOPE:

In our last newsletter we made mention of the soon to be released latest edition of The Native Book of Hope. While printing has been pushed back we are fully expecting to have copies available before the end of this year. Interest in the book continues to grow as



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

Stay up-to-date on the availability of:
"The Native Book of Hope"
Updates will be posted on our website as to the book's availability and how you can get your copy.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH ABA?

Well, summer has come and gone and Fall is fast approaching. Autumn can often bring with it mixed emotions for so many. Hot and humid weather is quickly turning to cool and crisp days, leaves are already changing in parts of our nation, kids are back to school and the busyness of our lives seem to be picking up steam. Oh yeah, there is also that nagging thought that winter is coming.

This past July brought the opportunity for the ministry of ABA to have exposure at a couple of camps in Ontario. We participated at Ottawa Valley Pentecostal Camp's Missions Day as well as Lakeshore Pentecostal Camp's Missions Fiesta in Cobourg, while August brought the occasion to fulfill a speaking engagement at the Family Worship & Outreach Centre in Courtice, ON with Pastor Steve Sparling.



Belinda manning the table
@ LPC in Cobourg



Dan with EOD
Superintendent Rev. Craig
Burton @ Ottawa Valley
Camp



Now the month of September brought with it the great privilege to be a part of the Quebec Native Women's Retreat that took place in Val d'Or, QC. Not only was it an excellent opportunity to spawn renewed relationships with the leadership there but we were also able to expose a number of ladies to the prospect of furthering their ministry skills. We actually had an individual signup to be a student while there in Val d'Or!

Over 330 ladies attended the
Native Women's Retreat



Ladies visiting ABA display



Sarah Taylor

An added bonus while at the women's retreat was the wonderful occurrence of meeting a former graduate, Sarah Bosum (last name at the time). Sarah graduated in 1983 from our Academy which, at that time, was known as National Native Bible College. She actually met her husband (Darryl Joseph Taylor) while attending our school for ministry training. They currently live in Mississauga, QC where Sarah is the youth pastor and teacher of a new believers class. What an encouragement to see former students being used in the work of the Lord!

With the onset of a new season looming, the days for our leadership here at ABA are quickly filling up. Please continue to keep ABA in your prayers as efforts persist in helping to develop indigenous leadership across Canada - from sea to sea to sea.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BIBLICAL STUDIES?

Here's How ABA can Help:

- Simply contact our office via phone, email or through our website. (Anyone is eligible to take the courses we offer)
- A "New Student Registration Form" will need to be filled out and returned to our office (by mail or fax)
- Included with the submitted forms needs to be a cheque for all appropriate academic fees made out to Aboriginal Bible Academy
- Once all forms and payment have been received by our office the process takes about 10 days by which time you can have your curriculum and study materials in your hand! If you choose to take your course online.....you can be well into your studies in 3-5 days!

SOME COURSE SYNOPSIS

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

- A study of the life and teachings of Christ based on Matthew, Mark, and Luke. After a brief introduction to the world into which Jesus was born, it provides a chronological study of His life. Emphasis is given to the context of His teachings and miracles. The content is arranged to help students apply the principles of the study to their own lives and to use them in their preaching and teaching.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

- A biblical approach to the principles of leadership. This course applies those principles in the church setting, giving the student the practical skills needed to serve in a leadership role in the local church

ESCHATOLOGY: A STUDY OF THINGS TO COME

- A biblical study of end-time events written from a Pentecostal perspective. The course studies the Rapture, plus various views of the Tribulation and the Millennium. It provides excellent material for teaching and preaching on the second coming of Christ.

aboriginal bible academy
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