



# aboriginal BIBLE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

**Many are probably not even aware of this, but Aboriginal Bible Academy has been in existence for over 34 years!**

Most of the faces over the past 3+ decades have changed, as well as our name but at our core, to serve the Aboriginal community through developing Christian leadership, has been a constant. And from the spirit of that core commitment an expanded mandate has risen, to not only minister to First Nations but ALL Aboriginal people across Canada, through the inclusion of Métis and Inuit as well.

Along with expanding our focussed demographic, we've also increased the variety and range of our training resources. What was once a more narrow streamlined set of curriculum, designed specifically for pastoral training, has blossomed to not ONLY

include pulpit preparation but introductory discipleship for new/soon-to-be believers as well as providing resources for the training of lay-workers and lay-leadership within the church setting.

A popular misconception with our Academy is that it's often assumed we are simply in the business to recruit students for pastoral preparation. While it is true that we provide a level of training material that is recognized for full-time credentialed ministry, in actuality, the majority of our ministry and training resources are idyllic for simple discipleship and lay-leadership development. Many of the churches we are currently assisting use a variety of our resources in various church situations that range from new believers classes, bible studies, special leadership training emphasis, individual study, adult Sunday school curriculum, to preaching material for sermons.

One of the unique features with our courses is that they are self contained and able to stand alone without the need to *have to have* ALL of the other courses. This allows a church/ministry to use as many or as few courses as they would deem fitting for their particular situation. Only when an individual desires to receive credit for a course or diploma completion is there the need to account for the student's progress. Tuition is not a prerequisite for those simply interested in better equipping themselves for Christian service.

**Perhaps Aboriginal Bible Academy could play a part in helping to produce a fuller & more dynamic Christian ministry expression in your life or those you serve?**

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## Check This Out! (Contact our office for more information)

Christian maturity is an ever-present goal for believers in Christ. This goal is to reach *"the very height of Christ's full stature"* (Eph 4:13). Although no believer can reach total Christlikeness during earthly life, the Bible places it as the goal for every Christian. It is better to strive for a goal that is too high and gain much than to actually reach a goal that is too low and gain little.

The main purpose of this course is to help the student become more like Christ and to encourage him or her to help

others do the same.

This independent study textbook is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the Christian Service Diploma Program.

This course will help the individual to:

- Understand how Christians grow to maturity
- Develop a desire for growth
- Maintain a growing relationship with God
- Evaluate your progress toward Christian maturity



## Did You Know? (Some Aboriginal Christmas trivia)

The first written native american Christmas carol was written down by a Jesuit missionary priest, Friar Jean de Brebeuf, around 1640-41, for the Huron Indians. The Hurons built a small chapel of fir trees and bark in honor of the manger at Bethlehem. This became the 'stable' where Jesus was born. The animals at the manger were the Fox, the Buffalo and the Bear. Some Hurons travelled as much as two days to be there for the Christmas celebration.

The Hurons also made a

traditional tent of skins and their nativity figures were all dressed as native Americans. This Huron Carol, originally written in the Huron language and later translated to French, has become a well known and much loved carol today.

Historically, many Native American people found that the story of Christmas and Christ's birth fulfilled tribal prophecies and found the message of Jesus to be consistent with the truth that was handed down by their ancestors.

**With 2012 just  
around the  
corner.....**

**PLEASE  
CONTINUE TO  
PRAY**

**for the ministry  
of Aboriginal  
Bible Academy**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends:

It is a delight to greet you at this wonderful season of the year...Christmas! The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is found in the well-known verse "*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes on Him shall be saved.*" (John 3:16). What an amazing story and experience of redemption we enjoy through our Lord and Saviour!

This past year has brought many blessings to *Aboriginal Bible Academy (ABA)*. New students have enrolled in our distance education with new training centres being established. Numerous copies of the *Book of Hope* and *First Things First* (Keith Parks) have been distributed. These resources are proving to be amazing tools in offering stories of hope and discipleship training! We are thankful to the Lord for His faithful provisions!

Such ministry is possible because of your partnership! Thank you for all you do to enhance the work of God, especially among our precious aboriginal peoples. Your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support translate into active leadership training across the entire nation of Canada. Our Academic Director, Rev. Dan Collado, continues to travel building relationships and networks from Labrador to British Columbia. Again, your gifts to this ministry make all of this possible!

Perhaps you would consider making another investment in this ministry at this Christmas time! A return envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

Your Board of Governors at *ABA* joins me in extending Christmas blessings to you and your family! It is our prayer that the Lord's abundant blessings will be upon you during this season and the New Year! We greatly anticipate the coming of the Lord and, who knows, perhaps it will be today!

Thank you again for all that you do in partnering with us!

On behalf of the Board of Governors  
(Rev. John E. Maracle, Bill Rendell,  
Bill Maracle, Carl Brant, Jeff Hillier)

*Cal*

Cal Anthony (Rev.)  
*Board Chair*



# 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!

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## 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.

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**aboriginal bible academy**  
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