

Multiplying Leaders with Good Soil

Gil and Denise Thomas



June 2021

Our Training & Resources Department had it's planning retreat on May 3-5 at a local Christian camp. It was a special time of getting to know the new members that have been added to the team and deepen our relationships and understanding of our different areas of ministry. Part of the time we split up into our two distinct groups; Missionary Development (those working with newer missionaries on their course and development plans) and the Good Soil team. We were able to get some good strategizing done and some new goals laid out for the future.



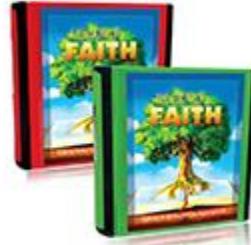
Our May trainings of Good Soil & BibleStorying are done and in the books. Five different mission organizations were represented along with many different countries. It is always a special blessing to see who God brings our way for the trainings and to see the attendees getting to know each other and their respective ministries.

Three ladies joined us from three different states--all three having been in Uganda and heading back for ministry there. They were delighted to meet their first night at the guest house. They were with us the whole week. What a blessing it was for us to see they believed in the importance of training and equipping themselves for their ministries! Also exciting was the fact that we had just begin two new translations of The Story of Hope in Ugandan languages--before we knew they would be in the May training!

A man from California joined us for the week also. He and his wife foster children and he wanted to learn how to more effectively share the gospel through BibleStorying. At the end of the week he blessed a sweet

missionary couple to Romania with over \$500 worth of Good Soil products.

And to top it off, it was fun to have Gil's sister Amy and her husband Ken with us as well as church family.



Our next group of classes will be The Roots of Faith Old Testament (June 14-18) and New Testament (June 21-25). These five-day classes require a lot of preparation and planning to host our guests and teachers. Each week has a group of 4-5 teachers that add expertise and variety to the class. The enrollment is good and we are looking forward to meeting those whom God is sending our way.

This summer at ABWE there is a group of college Missionary Kids that will be helping us through our busy time. They will also be taking the two weeks of classes. I'm super thankful that they are here to help Denise get the student notebooks all collated and ready for use.

Between the two classes on June 19th we will be having our Good Soil Advisory Board meeting. We would ask for prayer as we review the past year and look for wisdom for the future.

Your Missionaries,
Gil & Denise Thomas