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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABWE Meets Spiritual as Well as Physical Needs in Haiti

Team Trains Leaders to Use New Curriculum to Teach Bible Stories in Creole

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 1, 2011 – The Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) has brought the Story of Hope teaching materials to a country where hope is in short supply – Haiti.

During the first two weeks of November, an ABWE team of seven missionaries and volunteers taught pastors and Sunday School teachers how to use the Story of Hope curriculum to teach Bible stories to men, women and children in Haiti. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is still trying to come back from the devastating earthquake of January 2010.

Each team member worked with a translator, but the Story of Hope, only recently developed by ABWE, has already been translated into Creole, one of two official languages in Haiti. About 60 people attended each one-week session, and the ABWE team distributed more than 300 copies of the Story of Hope.

“With the extreme poverty in Haiti, Christians normally don’t have access to the type of resources we take for granted in the United States,” said Jim Cook, a team member and the Director of ABWE’s Next Generation Ministries. “We planted a seed that we hope will lead to a revival in Haiti.”

The team taught in Kenscoff, a town in mountainous country less than 10 miles from Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince. The curriculum contains an accordion-like, shrinkable and expandable visual presentation of 40 events from the Bible, 20 from the Old Testament and 20 from the New Testament. Each event has an accompanying set of Bible study questions, and the leaders’ guide is 375 pages.

ABWE has also been active in humanitarian relief in Haiti through its Care for the Children program, including distributing 100,000 meals to orphans, buying beds for orphans who don’t have one and providing school supplies to poor children.

Cook and his team visited two orphanages on this trip, his third to Haiti since the earthquake.

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“Many of these children are what we call ‘catastrophic orphans,’ ” he said. “They have lost their father, mother and home. The living conditions some of these orphans have experienced are the worst I’ve ever seen, and I have visited more than 20 countries.”

ABWE is an independent missions agency with a goal of spreading Christ’s message “from every nation to every nation,” making disciples among every people group on earth. It works in more than 70 countries.

- 30 -

Note to Editors: For more information or to request an interview, please contact Steve Yount of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or via e-mail at steve@alarryross.com.

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