



**ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM**  
**CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**  
Report by EARL COOPER

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# **SON-rise in Africa**

## **Newsletter**

### Next Quarter Itinerary

Springfield Baptist Church	April 6
West Africa Survey Trip	April 12- May 5
Grace Baptist Church, Simcoe	May 11
Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia	May 18
Calvary Baptist Church, Espanola	May 31 - June 1
Ruth's Chapel, North Carolina	June 8
Pinegrove Baptist Bracebridge	June 15
Heritage Baptist Ancaster	June 22
West Highland Baptist, Hamilton	June 22

### Quarterly Update

These first two months of new ministry have proved to be both a challenge and a blessing.. God has blessed by opening the doors of churches and keeping me busy with Sunday ministry. This was something that I was initially very concerned about. After 25 years of preaching, I simply wondered how I would get along without that vital part of my life. What a true blessing it was to be invited to minister the Word virtually every available week at various churches. These occasions privileged me with sharing the ministry of training pastors in West Africa from Trout Creek, Ontario to New Bern, North Carolina.

The challenge of these months has involved the business of

preparing letters of introduction, building a mission display, setting up files for reporting to ABWE, arranging for visas and vaccinations for the Survey Trip in April, and writing a Pastoral Ministry Study to teach in Ghana and Togo during the survey trip. All these responsibilities have kept me on the move and before my computer.

In preparation for the teaching trip in April, I have been encouraged with the help from Dave Totman, Steve Stedtmitter and Gib Dickinson, missionaries with ABWE in Ghana and Togo. In writing the study, I have been deeply grateful to Guylaine Bullen from our home church in Bracebridge, who has translated the study into French

for the students of Togo.

Our new ministry verse has already proved to be characteristic of this new adventure: Eph 3:20 God is.. "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Thank you for your support and prayer.

P.S. We did get to visit with our daughter & family in North Carolina and enjoy our first visit with our new grandson. Here is grandma's first cuddle:

**Please Note: For the purpose of efficient email transmission, photo's have been deleted from this Newsletter.**

### Here is a Word in Season from Earl Cooper

A while ago I read a story by a young woman in memory of her father entitled "My Father's Hands". In the story the author traced the memory of the love and care of her father expressed through his big but gentle hands. Her father, being a quiet and somewhat shy man, spoke little of his love for his family, nevertheless the tender care of the work of his hands demonstrated daily his commitment to those he loved. How wise the author was to see this expression of love and take

time to write of it. Men and women should do the same toward Our Father in heaven. Think for a moment with me about the works of God's hands. God's hands are strong in that they made and hold the universe together. "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in Him all things

hold together." (Colossians 1:16-17 NIV). The earth will complete its purpose, the sun will not burnout prematurely, the ozone layer will not collapse one second before God's original plan. The same hands that built the harmony and intricacy of the universe, that designed and put together the galaxies as well as the molecules, atoms and DNA code, the same hands that hold the universe together, that sustain life, and that shall bring all things to His determined end, are the hands that hold the true

believer in the embrace of His loving care, forever: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." (John 10:28-29). Thank our Heavenly Father for His hand that holds us, and for the human "father's hands" that He gives to care for us.

(In loving memory of Eric Chilton, Harold Cooper, Ted Bouma).

