



SON-rise in Africa Newsletter

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

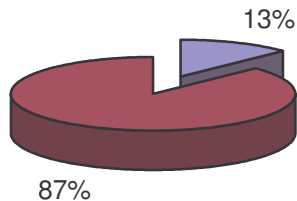
July 2003

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NEXT MONTH'S ITINERARY

Heritage Baptist Church, Ancaster
July 20, 27, Aug 3,10
Arnstein Evangelical Baptist
Church, Aug. 17
First Baptist Church, Waterloo
Aug. 24

Support Status



■ Committed Support
■ Remaining Support

Quarterly Update

During the first 2 weeks of July, we were privileged to attend the Candidate Seminar Class of 2003. Although a very busy pace was kept throughout the 18 days, this was a spiritually rewarding time. ABWE's president, Dr. Loftis challenged the 88 candidates with an opening address that set the stage for two weeks of prayer, and Bible study, teaching and interacting, and mission preparation focused on the Mission's core values of integrity, excellence, compassion and accountability. On Thursday, July 10, Kathi and I were interviewed by the ABWE board and then officially appointed as career missionaries to West Africa. A recognition service for all appointed missionaries from the class of 2003 was held at Messiah College on Sunday, July 13. At this service, Kathi and I each received certificates of completion of the Candidate Seminars and were each presented with the "mantel of service" from Canadian missionaries Wally and Jeannie Stephenson. It is with excitement and anticipation that Kathi and I begin this new phase of our service to the King of Kings.

Upon career missionary appointment we met with the financial director of ABWE to calculate our support needs. These needs are established by ABWE according to the cost of living in each missionary's resident location, health and insurance benefit costs per family, and ministry expenses such as automobile, air travel, office and administration needs. Although some of the "Canadian" expenses have yet to be determined, we were delighted to be informed that approximately 13 % of our support has already been committed. We praise God for His blessings and look forward to serving Him during our Pre-Field Ministry time. Please pray for us.

Here is a Word in Season from Earl

In the frenzy of daily routine and people problems, my mind can capture a picture of peace and serenity by returning to my boyhood days of farm living. I picture myself sitting on the rail fence in southern Ontario watching the cows pasture quietly in the field as a breeze passes over the long grass giving the impression of a gently rolling sea. The closest thing to violent activity is the

occasional flick of a tail or twitch of an ear by a cow to chase away flies. Peace prevails. The shepherds of Israel must have found a similar peace among the flocks of sheep because their word for pasturing grew to represent the best of life's peaceful coexistence among fellow human beings. The idea of sheep or cattle grazing side by side (rah-gah) grew to include

the tranquillity of two standing together in peace and harmony (rah-yah), translated companion, friend, neighbour. To this beautiful expression of human relationship, God adds His own standard of excellence: "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17 NIV). God's call to friendship includes the extension of unconditional love where an "accept me as I am" attitude predominates. The Lord

expressed this Himself on Calvary where "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV). The call to salvation is not "whosoever is worthy", but "whosoever will", may come! (see John 3:16 and Romans 10:11-13). To the emphasis of unconditional love in acceptance, the Lord adds

unconditional love in action: "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24 NIV), "Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you--better a neighbour nearby than a brother far away." (Proverbs 27:10 NIV). Here God's call to friendship involves accepting

responsibility for a neighbour's needs when hardship comes. In calamity a true friend is there with open arms and open pockets. To this extent, God has promised to help all who call upon Him according to His will and purpose: "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me." (Psalms 27:10).

With the Hebrew word for pasturing implying such significance in defining human friendship, and with God's own standard understood from scripture, Psalm 23 becomes very special. It begins: "The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:1-3). Two questions become self evident- Is the Lord that kind of shepherd-friend to you, a source of life, peace and contentment? Are you God's kind of friend to others, accepting and acting with unconditional love?

Kathi's Notes

ABWE's Candidate Seminars were both challenging and rewarding for me. In a seminar on lifestyle issues, Bill Commons stated, " If you or we (ABWE) are to become well known and held up as an example, may it be for our passionate commitment to Christ and His Great Commission, our hunger for holiness, our vision for discipleship evangelism and church planting. May we excel most of all in worship and witness with a servant spirit. 'He must increase, (we) must decrease' (John 3:30)". At our recognition service, we were presented with towels monogrammed with "Sent to Serve". This will be a reminder to me of the reason Christ has chosen me as His own.

The 2003 Candidate Class was attended by 89 individuals, 64 of whom were appointed in July. The remainder will be appointed at a later date. I have new friends who will be serving around the world, some here in North America and others in restricted ministry in undisclosed areas. In a short time, we became a family praying for each other and praising God as He revealed His will for fields of service. We intend to keep in touch to see how God continues to work in our lives enabling us to reach our chosen fields.

"The moment that I became a citizen of Heaven I became a foreigner on earth. It is unfortunate that we have adopted such a phrase as 'foreign missionaries.' We are all missionaries, and we are all pilgrims and strangers, foreigners in this world." T. J. Bach

from...
TWELVE BASKETS
 FULL
 by
HY PICKERING

SEVEN SAFEGUARDS FOR SAINTS.		
The safeguards are connected with the word "lest" in Hebrews.		
<i>Hearing</i> —Give heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip	- - - -	Heb. 2. 1
<i>Heeding</i> —Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief	- - - -	Heb. 3. 12
<i>Exhorting</i> —Exhort one another daily . . . lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin	- - - -	Heb. 3. 13
<i>Labouring</i> —Labour, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of disobedience (<i>mar.</i>)	- - - -	Heb. 4. 11
<i>Considering</i> —Consider Him . . . lest ye be wearied and faint	- - - -	Heb. 12. 3
<i>Making</i> —Make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way	- - - -	Heb. 12. 13
<i>Looking</i> —Looking diligently, lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness, springing up, trouble you, and thereby many be defiled	- - - -	Heb. 12. 15 F. E. M.