



SON-rise in Africa Newsletter

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

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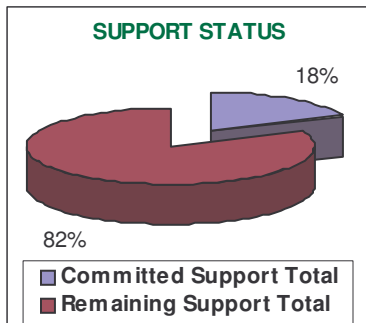
UPDATED ITINERARY

Harrow Baptist Church
Harrow, Nov. 2
Courtland Fellowship Baptist
Church, Nov. 9
Pinegrove Baptist Church
Bracebridge, Nov. 16
West Highland Baptist Church,
Hamilton, Nov. 23
Madoc Baptist Church
Madoc, Nov. 30
Riverside Baptist Church
Huntsville, Dec 7
Marathon Baptist Church
Marathon, Dec 14

Quarterly Update

With Thanksgiving just a few weeks behind us, I am reminded of just how much we have to be thankful for. God has graciously blessed us with friends who uphold us each day in prayer. We consider this to be ministry's greatest blessing on earth! Along with prayer support, God has continued to meet our needs through the generous gifts of His people. We are truly humbled by such sacrifice. God has kept us safe through the 15000 kilometres of Ontario roads that pre-field ministry has taken us through so far. God has enriched our lives through the 15 churches that we have ministered in during these past 8 months. And God continues to uphold us with His promises and the anticipation of getting back to West Africa to teach pastors who are thirsty for the Word.

I have spent the past few months writing 2 specific studies: Angelology, Satan and Demons and The Ministry of the Holy Spirit. I am now writing a devotional guide for each of these studies. This, along with the long hours each week doing mailings, making phone contacts with pastors, writing reports and updates, preparing preaching and teaching ministry in churches, and corresponding with ABWE, has kept me at my desk every weekday and then some. Apart from chronic impatience at how slow things go, (a plight that most pastors have), I am extremely happy and contented doing what I do for Christ. God has blessed the ministry of the Word, and we are confident that God is placing us where He wants us, and that He will raise support in His time, for His glory.



Here is a Word in Season from Earl

Rest for most people comes in bits and pieces, if indeed it comes at all. We search for it in the quietness of the evenings, we long for it during those vacation times, we even demand it in the process of job negotiations.

For the Christian there is a deep and abiding rest that comes in three forms. In 2 Thessalonians 1:7 the Bible says "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be

revealed from heaven with his mighty angels". There is a rest for the believer when the Lord returns. This is the deliverance from tension between a world that ignores God and a Christian that loves God. The word indicates a release comparable to the letting down of the tension on a stringed musical instrument.

Paul longed for that release from tension, even referring to it as the believer's state when absent from the body and

present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Jesus spoke of another rest: "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...learn of me... and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28). Here, rest is the cessation of labour in which an individual recognizes in Christ a satisfaction that previously was not experienced. In coming to Christ, the believer

recognizes that labour spent on that which doesn't satisfy, (whether for salvation, or satisfaction) is meaningless. The relationship with Christ has brought both through what God did for us (salvation). This rest from labour is summarized by that repeated phrase in scripture: "The just shall live by faith".

The Epistle of Hebrews indicates another form of

rest: "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God, for he who has entered his rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:9). This rest speaks of the continuation of the seventh day in which God, having created the world,

rested, because all was completed. Here, the rest which brings to the Christian an awareness of the beauty of completion, is understood.

The Christian understands that God's work in us (making us like His Son) is as assured of completion as to be stated

as already finished. Paul referred to this when he said "He that hath begun a good work in you will complete until the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:6)

These three rests are the deep and satisfying rests offered to every believer as a

source of well-being. As both promise and hope, the believer's rest is a source of reprieve in an otherwise all too frantic world. Christian friend, enjoy your rest!

Kathi's Notes

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." Psalm 73:26

'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.' 2 Cor. 12:9

We have travelled across our province from the shores of the St. Lawrence River in eastern Ontario to the rugged Canadian Shield in the north. I have seen ocean liners and pulp & paper mills, trees dressed in their autumn wardrobe and caravans of moose hunters headed for home in their mud-splattered trucks. This weekend we'll head to the most southerly tip of Canada; I hope it's not too late to see some of the thousands of monarch butterflies that congregate before migrating to Mexico.

Although I find the hours in the car tiring, the Lord has enabled me to keep up with the pace of pre-field ministry and teaching. I am encouraged by the fellow believers we meet in various churches; they greet us just as if we are old friends and promise to pray for us. My fellow staff members at Muskoka Christian School are always interested in our weekend ministries; our prayer card is on display throughout the school. I can count on God's people to "strive together with me in ... prayers to God for me" (Rom. 15:30)

I am encouraged, too, that our children have a part in our ministry through prayer and practical helps. We often stop at the "Bouma's Bed & Breakfast" in Brantford, a place where we are welcomed with smiles on two little boys' faces. We can depend on Teresa & Adam to watch over Earl's mom and our dog at the homefront when we are away. Our son, David, really enjoys his room-mates at Pensacola Christian College and they are praying for us. Interestingly enough, 3 of the 4 boys have parents involved in ABWE's work around the world! Now didn't the Lord work that out well to calm a mother's heart?

Africa Calls...



With Africa on our minds and hearts, I would like to introduce you to Pastor Solomon from Faith Baptist Church, Kadjerbi-Akan, Ghana, West Africa.

Pastor Solomon began a Christian School in this city which now has an attendance of 230 students from grade 1 to grade 6, 50 of these students are orphans. From the school ministry, Pastor Solomon established a church. This church now has 150 in attendance and a Sunday School of 200 children. Solomon left his church during the week prior to and the week after Easter, last April, and spent a week's income to travel to Ho where he joined in the class that I was privileged to teach. Solomon, along with his wife Patience, and three children, are being used of God to reach souls among the Islamic population of North Ghana. To my knowledge, Pastor Solomon's church stands alone in this community as a light-house of truth among thousands of Africans in need of Christ. Solomon desires to build His labour on the principles of God's Word. His thirst for the Word was apparent in the classroom. Please pray for Solomon and Faith Baptist Church in Kajerbi-Akan. Africa calls...