



SON-rise in Africa Newsletter

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

January, 2004
Volume 2. Issue 1

UPDATED ITINERARY

We are just beginning to contact churches for this year's schedule, so far our itinerary includes:

Grace Baptist, Simcoe
Jan 18

Fenelon Falls Baptist, Fenelon Falls
Jan 25

Streetsville Baptist, Mississauga
Feb 15

West Park Baptist, London
Mar 4-7

There are other opportunities in the making that have not been confirmed for dates as yet.

Quarterly Update

It is difficult to realize that 1 year ago we left pastoral ministry to follow God's leading to missions. Here is a short summary of the year: From February to June, with 'short term' status, I (Earl) shared the ministry and the Word with 12 different churches from Ontario to North Carolina and completed a teaching tour in April-May to Ghana and Togo, West Africa. We also completed the application process and the Canadian Board interview. In July we attended the Candidate Seminar in Harrisburg, Penn., where we were appointed as career missionaries with ABWE. As Pre-Fielders, Kathi and I visited another 13 churches from August to December, again sharing the ministry and the Word. These opportunities resulted from contacting through mail and phone follow-up a total of 177 churches throughout Ontario.

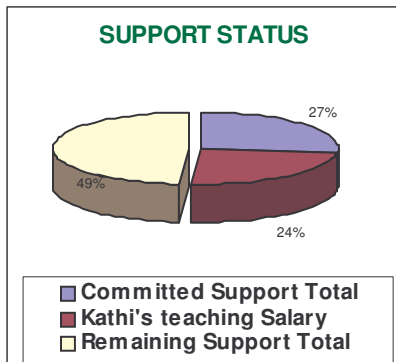
During this past year Kathi continued teaching part time at the Muskoka Christian School and serving as an AWANA director at Pinegrove Baptist. Earl helped with pulpit supply for several weeks in two churches without pastors, had 2 weekend Bible conferences and 8 Full-Sunday Bible ministries. As well, Earl was able to write three Bible College courses and get a good start on a pre-course study guide for one of these courses.

Along with all this statistical information, we desire to pass on to you the great blessings of God through these opportunities to minister. We have rediscovered 'long-lost' friends, made friends and evidenced God's loving care through His people. It is also our joy to report that, with some new support during Christmas and the increasing value of the Canadian dollar, as of Dec 31 - we were just over our 50% goal for commencing ministry in May. PTL!!! I prayed that God would supply that 50% by the end of the year and HE DID. God is so good!

A verse jumped out at me during my devotions just this morning that perfectly summarizes our ministry year of 2003:

Psalm 65:11 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness;
and thy paths drop fatness.

We praise God for His faithfulness, and thank you all for your continued love, care and prayers.



ABWE is including Kathi's part-time teaching salary now, for the purpose of commencing ministry-albeit limited. However, because her skills and time are very important for this ministry, full-support status will include Kathi's involvement full time.

Here is a Word in Season from Earl

The greatest respect is due the pantomime artist who studies the many body movements and facial expressions necessary to imitate the simplest action. This requires hours of hard work. Yet this kind

of work should not be unfamiliar to the Christian. In 3 John 11, the believer is exhorted to "follow not that which is evil, but that which is good." The word translated 'follow' is the word "mimoi". The English

words mime, mimic, and mimeograph are derived from this Greek word.

This word translated in modern text as 'follow' or 'imitate,' expresses the idea of examining, reflecting back to something clearly identified, and then

actually copying that characteristic in one's own life.

Paul called the Corinthians to "Imitate Himself as He imitated Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Indeed, Paul's chief aim in life was to "know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, being conformed to His death." (Philippians 3:10).

To follow Christ begins with placing our faith in: His sacrificial death on the cross in punishment

for our sins and His resurrection from the dead for our justification.

However, this is only a beginning. As the pantomime artist studies body movements and facial expression in order to imitate actions, so must the believer study the character and qualities of Christ as revealed in scripture, and seek by the power of the Holy Spirit, to imitate these qualities.

In the popular Christian novel "In His Steps", Charles Sheldon the author captures this concept with a

story suggesting the impact of a few Christians on a town when every decision they make is preceded by the question "What would Jesus do?". This is a very practical way of imitating Christ.

Every Christian is called upon to do the work of the pantomime artist in studying and imitating Jesus. Only in so doing can one truly say he is a "follower of Christ."

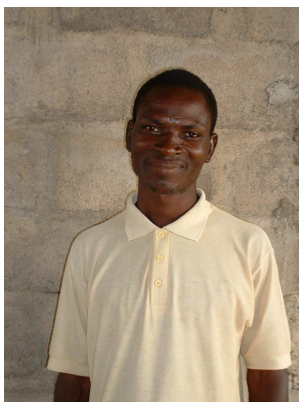
Kathi's Notes... A new year is a time to reflect and to anticipate. Psalm 68 : 19 says 'Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.' I often think of the children's song, 'Running Over' as I picture God's goodness and care for our family.

Special highlights and family blessings were not lacking in 2003. In February we rejoiced in the birth of a new grandson, Caleb Theodore Bouma. Another day in February I had the great privilege to lead one of my Kindergarten students to the Lord. I was especially thankful when our daughter Michele's family moved back to Ontario in June after 5 years in NC. Attending candidate seminars in July was really a blessing for me, although I was anxious about all the interviews. The sessions increased my understanding of what God is doing in our world and we met so many great people who are also interested in missions. I reached a goal in July when I participated in my tenth summer at Awana's Ontario Scholarship Camp. As the Awana director of the Truth & Training club at Pinegrove Church, I have been encouraged by a great team of leaders and a wonderful group of clubbers for this year's ministry. As we go ahead in pre-field ministry, God has brought alongside us some faithful encouragers who have given me confidence that the Lord wants us to pursue ministry in Ghana.

Looking ahead to 2004, I have set out some goals pertaining to pre-field. The Centre for Excellence in Missions at ABWE has assigned certain tasks to help us prepare for ministry in Ghana. I have already read 3 missiology books this fall and have several others to tackle. These include reading assignments for Africa—there are 3 books dealing with Africa in general and then some other books and articles specifically about West Africa. I also need to find, work on and complete an appropriate doctrinal course for CEIM. I would also like to begin to define my role for ministry in Ghana.

Isaiah 42 :6 says ' I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee.. ' God has certainly kept His promise by His daily provision for us throughout 2003 and I am counting on Him to hold my hand as I walk through 2004.

Africa Calls...



With Africa on our minds and hearts, I would like to introduce you to Tchalla Pori, a Bible College student in Kara, Togo. Here is his testimony: "I am a member of Baptist Bible Church of 'la Grace" of Tomde (Kara). I was born in a family which doesn't know Jesus as their Saviour. I started going to school, and in 1990, my father agreed with me to go in a village and live with my uncle's, thus, I can continue to go to school. But my father said to my uncles to leave me if I decided to follow Jesus. I past six years with them, and my friends who know Jesus were asking me to accept Jesus. But I had the fear of my parents and my uncles. When I came in 1996 in the town to continue my studies in the grammar school, I decided to go to a church to hear about Jesus. I went in a Baptist Bible Church and the members explained to me how to receive Jesus and accepted him as my Saviour because of the fear of death. From that day I decided to follow Jesus even though my father opposed me at the beginning. With teachings and reading of the Bible, I discovered that I have to serve God. Now I work as a translator, and sometimes teach on Wednesday afternoons. I share His Gospel with others. I then need to know more about the Word of God. I need to fear of sin and then I can serve Him more." Africa calls...