

# *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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Volume 2. Issue 2

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### UPDATED ITINERARY

First Baptist - Waterloo  
Mar 3  
West Park Baptist - London  
Mar 4-7  
Emmanuel Bible Church - Simcoe  
Mar. 14 a.m.  
North Broadway Baptist -  
Tillsonburg, Mar 14 p.m.  
Unionville Baptist - Unionville  
Mar 21  
Alta Vista Baptist - Ottawa  
Mar 28  
Northside Baptist - Waterloo  
April 18  
Sinclairville Baptist, N.Y.  
April 23-25

### SUPPORT STATUS

Committed Support - 30%  
Kathi's teaching Salary - 24%  
Remaining Support - 46%  
Remaining Support  
with Kathi full time - 70%

*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.*

### Ministry Update

The first two months of 2004 have been a rich blessing to Kathi and I. The Lord opened doors of ministry and graced us with safe travels and warm fellowship everywhere we went. One unique blessing came from meeting a fellow brother in the Lord from Ghana while ministering in Mississauga. It was a joy to see this brother's eyes sparkle at the news that God had called us to train pastors in his home country.

Our travels have brought us in contact with missionaries, pastors and church lay leaders whose lives have been blessed in God's service. It is exciting to meet God's people throughout Ontario who are just as burdened for their ministry as we are for ours. Sharing times have provided mutual encouragement in the faith.

As the weekends have been busy with ministry around Ontario, so the challenge to get ready for teaching in May has kept me busy in study. The West Africa ABWE Team has asked me to come in May to teach pastors a course on Angelology, Satan and Demons in Ghana and courses on Ecclesiology (The Doctrine of the Church) and Eschatology (The Doctrine of Future Events) in Togo. The Satan/Demonology study is critical in West Africa - the world centre of 'voodoo' and 'spiritism.' I have completed the writing of these studies, specific to African culture. I also completed Pre-Course Study Guides for Angelology/ Satanology & Demonology as well as Ecclesiology. This is in response to the African educational needs. Our plans are for me to depart on May 6 for a one month teaching tour.

We thank God for the blessings of pre-field ministry as well as the blessings of ministry preparation for West Africa. We have come to look upon our present walk of faith as a special adventure in which God has placed treasures of blessing all along the way.

Please continue to uphold the teaching needs of West Africa before God in prayer. Pray that May's trip will be used of God to bring His faithful servants into a deeper understanding of God's power over darkness and the beauty of His body working in unison to build itself up in love.

### Here is a Word in Season from Earl

It would seem, with the overwhelming flood of calorie reduced food and fitness products that the whole world has become weight watchers. As much as being health conscious is good, for the believer in Christ there is another

kind of weight watching to consider. Being reminded of Paul's letter to the Galatians, Christians are called upon to be spiritual weight watchers: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ". (Galatians 6:2) Here the word burden (bar-os) refers

to a heaviness or weight that presses down upon a person, certain troubling circumstances that crush a fellow believer.

The context of Galatians 6 suggests certain sins that a fellow Christian has fallen into which

present a burden of circumstances seemingly insurmountable, in which believing friends draw close and out of love help that brother become restored to fellowship with God. This kind of "weight watching" involves a humble expression of love combined with a careful self-examination of personal walk with God (Galatians 6:3-4).

The Lord is asking, through Paul, for every believer to be sensitive toward the weaknesses of others, and to carry that sensitivity with active concern as the fulfilment of "the law of Christ". This law was defined earlier in the epistle: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one

another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself". (Galatians 5:13-14) It has been stated that Christians are more inclined to shoot their wounded than treat them. Such was not the case with Christ who was willing to forgive the offender upon repentance rather than stone for the offence (John 8:1-11).

In this very same passage, believers are also urged to carry their own weight: "For every man shall bear his own burden". (Galatians 6:5) Here the word burden (for-tee-on) refers to the personal "burden of responsibility" that the Lord lays on each of His followers including this commitment to love. By privilege of new life, every Christian must carry their own God given responsibilities. However, lest any Christian become

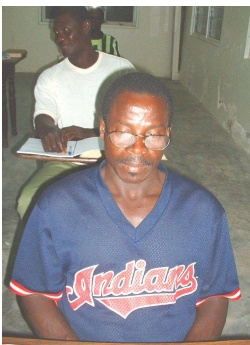
discouraged by these cares and turn from them, all should remember the words of Christ: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light". (Matthew 11). To be a Christian is to be joined (yoked) together with the one in whom all strength and love is found and therefore, is to have available through Him the power to perform His work. Paul stated it this way: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13).

To a bell boy, weight is work, to a prospector, weight is wealth, to the believer, weight is both work and wealth. Fellow Christian, be a conscientious weight watcher."

### **Kathi's Notes...**

The months of January & February have gone by quickly. While much of Ontario has experienced lots of bad weather, we are thankful we have managed to miss the storms during our travels. In fact, students (& teachers!) in Muskoka are bemoaning the fact they have had no Snow Days! I have completed the typing of all the notes for the new courses that Earl will teach in the spring. Now I am busily working at assessing students and preparing report cards. I'm thankful for the 3 new students in my Kindergarten class; they add more variety, challenges and excitement. And yet I look forward to the March School Break when we will have time to spend with family & friends, especially one little boy who'll be coming on his own to Papa & Gammy's—yay!

### **Africa Calls...**



With Africa on our minds and hearts, I would like to introduce you to Pastor George Dzansi, one of the pastors I had the privilege to teach in April, 2003.

"I George K Dzansi was born in December 1959. I completed Elementary School in 1981 and got married in 1983. I now have four children. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour on June 20, 1993.

I one day gathered my family and taught them the Word of God. After ABWE missionaries came to my home at Adaklu Helekpe, Ghana for evangelism, I have twenty eight souls [new believers] to care for. Twenty six of these were baptized on June 6, 2002, and they became full members of Hasu Baptist Church. Now we have many visitors."

Hasu Baptist Church in Adaklu Avanyaviwofe, Ghana continues to grow. A special project to raise a starter church building has been established for this church by ABWE (Project 076402-006 - Ghana Church Planting). Africa calls...

### **Air Miles Assistance**

If Air Miles have not interested you and yet you have occasion to receive Air Miles by shopping at such places as A&P Grocers, Shell Gas Stations, etc., you can help our travel costs by giving the attendant our Air Miles No. This is a completely legitimate way of supporting our ministry travel costs. We thank you for your consideration.

**Cooper Air Miles  
No.  
8006 178 1930**