

SON-rise in Africa

Newsletter

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ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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Ministry Update

December ministry led us to the Ontario northlands where we enjoyed a weekend of sharing at Marathon Baptist Church. Earl spoke at the Saturday Night Youth Activity where 22 attentive teens were asked “Would you cut off your arm to save your life?” and were given a challenge to pursue the wonder of God’s purpose-filled life in Christ. Several of these teens (only 3 were known to be believers) joined the Sunday services to hear about life in Africa. The time spent with Pastor Benno Kurvits and family, and the very caring and generous church family, concluded our 2004 ministry travels with yet another time of rich blessings.

Mid-December afforded us opportunity to join with the choir of Riverside Baptist in Huntsville and prepare for Christmas ministry. It was a pleasant change from travelling each weekend. It was also a great time to get to know God’s people at our home church.

The destructive Tsunamis that devastated Asia were labelled by Time magazine as “Waves of Sorrow,” leaving much of our world in chaos and uncertainty. We, too, had a Wave of Sorrow when we received word of Mom Chilton’s (Kathi’s Mom) stroke on Christmas Eve. Her 5-day coma was a time of trial and contemplation, but was not one of

uncertainty. The Lord called Mom into the fullness of His presence on Wednesday, Dec. 29 with the certainty of His promise to gather us *together* for eternity (1 Thess. 4:17). We marvelled at the memorial service where Mom Chilton’s family (particularly the grandchildren) truly painted a memory-picture of the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. When God is at the centre of the scene, even waves of sorrow are turned to a rising tide of praise to our God.

Our prayer requests are:

1. For God’s blessing on the Word that was shared at the memorial service. (Is. 55:11). Just an added blessing – a childhood friend with whom we were out of contact came to the memorial service and shared that he was saved a few years ago. God is so good!
2. For Mission Presentation Meetings at churches.
3. For travel safety.
4. For wisdom as Earl labours to put together a curriculum for West Africa.
5. For wisdom as Earl continues to write College Courses and Study Guides.
6. For Kathi as she continues teaching at Muskoka Christian School as well as prepares for her first trip with Earl to Africa this summer.

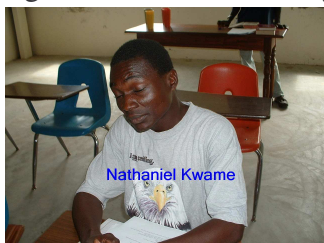
Thank you again for your prayers and encouragement.

10 -10 -20, Our Revised Support Formula

We continually praise God for the generosity of His people toward us as we ministered the Word this past year. Our call to walk by faith has been richly rewarding in seeing God supply every need. We thank God for the increase in committed supporters that encourages us with the necessity of revising our support formula. ABWE releases its missionaries to full field ministry on the basis of committed support, by month, by quarter, or by year (as indicated by an Intent to Support Form). We now are waiting upon the Lord to burden 10 families from 10 churches to commit \$20 per month to the ministry of training pastors in West Africa. This will complete our support needs and allow for consistently scheduled trips. In whatever way He chooses to provide, we are hopeful that the Lord will supply this by the end of 2005. Please continue to pray for God to use us as He wills during pre-field and to give the hearts of His people a burden for this training ministry.

Africa Calls...

With Africa on our minds let me introduce you to pastor intern Nathaniel Kwame: “I was saved by hearing the Gospel, thus made me recognize myself as ‘sinner’ who can do absolutely nothing to pay for my sin since my righteousness are as filthy rags in God’s sight (Is. 64:6). Until I encountered God’s awesome moment on the 20th Sunday, July 2002 when Pastor Matthews – USA preached Romans 3:23 to a church at Akuofu Baptist, of which I am now a member. Factually, [I] am currently [helping] to lead this tremendous church (body of Christ), being planted by Pastor Jim Plunkett – USA. Nevertheless, Christ is the head. I preach and teach adults and I believed they are such a faithful men and women in Christ though [I] am young man in mid 20’s. Finally I thank God for giving Mathetes [Baptist Bible College] wonderful people, my pastor-trainer and counsellor Pastor Kurt Matthews. More so, he encourages me tremendously. Not forgetting my mother, siblings and saved friends who really encourage me. [I] am now determined through the wish of Pastor Kurt to enrol as a student in the Mathetes Baptist Bible College next month (June 2003) God willing!!” *And he did enrol, which is how I came to know this student and man of God ...Africa calls.*



Kathi’s Notes: I am so thankful for the many friends who have prayerfully supported our family through the two weeks of Christmas when my mom was in hospital. Others have been a blessing by attending the visitation and memorial service for Mom. Many have sent cards or notes of care through email. Thanks so much! I have been truly privileged to have parents who enriched my life with their encouragement, nurturing love and care and their quiet testimony of Christ’s work in their lives. What a great example of devotion!

Present Itinerary:

January 23 – Entwistle Men’s Breakfast, Entwistle, AB.
January 24 – Entwistle Baptist Church Sunday School and A.M. Worship.
January 24 - Morinville Baptist Church P.M. Worship, Morninville, AB.
January 30 – Lakeview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB.
February 6 – Killam Baptist Church and associate ministries, Killam, AB.
February 15-18 2005 – Word of Life Bible Institute, Owen Sound, ON.
February 20 – Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia, ON.
February 27 – Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia, ON.
June – Aug – Teaching tour in Ghana, West Africa.
August 21-25 – Triple C Bible Camp, Simcoe ON.
Ministry trips to North West New York and New Brunswick are in the planning stage.

The Visit of God: In the 1st century of the church, Athanasius captured the significance of this visit of God: “What was God to do in face of the dehumanizing of humankind, this universal hiding of the knowledge of himself by the wiles of evil spirits? What else could he possibly do but renew his image in humankind, so that through it people might once more come to know him? And how could this be done save by the coming of the very image himself, our Saviour Jesus Christ? Human beings could not have done it, for they are only made after the image; nor could angels have done it, for they are not the images of God. The Word of God came in his own person, because it was he alone, the image of the Father, who could recreate human beings made after the image.