

## Ministry Update

May has proven to be another month of travel, but it included a short holiday as well. After ministering at Bethel Baptist in Orillia on the first weekend, we packed up the car and headed for Pensacola Christian College in Florida. Earl participated in the graduation ceremonies where he was presented with the Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies degree which he had completed in March. After graduation we picked up our son, David, who completed his second year in the Bible programme. Then we headed for the caves of Kentucky where we enjoyed a reprieve from the 90 degree temperature in the cool depths of Lost River cave and Diamond cave. This one day holiday was a real blessing as we took in more of God's creation.

In mid May Earl travelled to New York and Pennsylvania states. In New York state he shared the ministry and the Word at Sinclairville Baptist and Sherman First Baptist churches. In between these ministry Sundays, Earl attended ABWE's Edge Seminars in Harrisburg where he participated in the Situational Leadership seminar and a seminar on the emerging post-modernist church. The leadership seminar has been a part of the corporate consulting seminars developed by the Center for Leadership Studies Inc., Escondido CA. The study focuses on follower sensitive leadership and is a valuable tool for developing servant leadership within the Christian community. Earl was able to complete the additional trainer seminar and receive a training certificate. The seminar on the emerging post-modern church is not really applicable in Africa in their present state of development; however, the pastors who are now being trained in Africa will face this emerging church in due course if the Lord tarries. Therefore, the Bible Colleges of Africa where Earl teaches will have to prepare the men. In the end, these seminars will prove very practical in developing church leadership in Africa.

## Africa Calls...

Thank you for your continued prayers. Please continue to bring us before the Lord throughout our African tour. We are scheduled to leave for Africa on June 23. Our African itinerary looks like this:

Arrive Accra, Ghana - Fri. June 24 approx 10 p.m.

June 25 - Travel to ABWE hospital, Kpalime, Togo.

June 26 - Travel to Kara, Togo.

June 27 - July 8 - Teach at the Bible Institute in Kara, Eschatology.

July 3 - Preach at one or two of the Baptist churches.

July 10, - Preach at another Baptist church or two, travel to Kpalime.

July 11-13 - Curriculum Design Meetings in Kpalime, Togo.

July 13 - Travel to Hohoe, Ghana.

July 14-16 - Teach the Regional Training Module in Hohoe, Pneumatology.

July 17 - Preach in Hohoe.

July 18 - Travel to Ho, Ghana.

July 18-29 - Teach Mathetes Baptist Bible College Module in Ho on Pneumatology & Spiritual Gifts.

July 24, 31 - Preach somewhere.

Aug. 2 - Travel to Accra?

August 3-7 - AFBC (Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches) Pastors' Conference main speaker)

Leave from Accra Sun. Aug 7, approx 10. p.m.

**Note to all:** Travel in Africa may prevent sending monthly newsletters for June - Aug.

## Here is a Word in Season from Earl

Without doubt, one of the negative by-products of our socially conscientious society is a growing "hand-out" mentality. By this I mean that a growing number of people actually believe that society owes them. The great sacrifices of our forefathers to bring freedom and comfort to our land has created not gratitude but graft. Shared costs for mutual privilege has led to demands for free education, free medication, free accommodation. The needy have been overrun by the greedy. This "give me" approach to life has even entered into the church.

Charles Colson writes: "The roots of the church's identity crisis are found in the consumer mentality so pervasive in our culture... Ask people what they look for in a church and the number one response is "fellowship" ... Spiritual consumers are interested not in what the church stands for but in the fulfilment it can deliver."

How far from Christ's call this is: "Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24 NIV) Believers can be so far removed from this heartbeat of Christ that understanding of personal denial and a cross escapes them. On January 8, 1956, Jim Elliot and four other missionaries were killed by the Auca natives that they had sought to bring the message of Christ to. Perhaps the words of Elisabeth Elliot regarding her martyred husband will shed some light on denial and a cross: "When I was a student at Wheaton, I asked Jim to autograph my yearbook. He wrote: "The dust of words would smother me. II Timothy 2:4." The text cited says, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

His death was the result of simple obedience to his Captain. Many thousands of men have died in obedience to their captains. The men at Gettysburg were among them. Abraham Lincoln's great words, spoken on that battlefield, apply as well to other soldiers whose obedience to commands is not the less to be imitated: "We cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, ... who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. ...It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that ... we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

Lincoln and those who were present at that ceremony viewed once again the ground whereon the men struggled -- common green fields of Pennsylvania, but fraught with new significance. As I read again Jim's own words, put down in battered notebooks during the common routine of life, they become, for me, fraught with new meaning. To them I can add nothing: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." (1949)."

God is looking for committed Christians not consumer Christians!

## Present Itinerary:

June 5 a.m. – Alta Vista Baptist Church, Ottawa, ON

June 5 p.m. – Lyndock Baptist Church, Eganville, ON

June 12 – Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia, ON

June 17 – Riverside Baptist Church, Huntsville, ON

June – August – Teaching tour in Togo & Ghana, West Africa.

August 21-25 – Triple C Bible Camp, Simcoe, ON

August 28 – Berean Baptist Church, London, ON

## Email Newsletter Service:

High mailing costs have necessitated sending our email only to interested churches for distribution. For any folks interested in receiving this monthly newsletter by email, please drop us a line at [ekcooper@sympatico.ca](mailto:ekcooper@sympatico.ca). Just say – "Newsletter please" and we will include your email on our list. If your church is receiving the newsletter and you were on our email list but are now not, a typing error may be the cause, please re-enlist by sending us your request by email as well.

## Air Miles Assistance

*For those who have passed on your earned air miles to us, we thank you.* If Air Miles have not interested you and yet you have occasion to receive Air Miles you can help our travel costs by giving the attendant our Air Miles No. Thank you.

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