



SON-rise in Africa Newsletter

June 2005

ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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Ministry Update

I thought I would get this Newsletter out early rather than attempt to send it from Africa with no certainty of success. As I write this report we are one day away from our departure to West Africa. It is sunny in Muskoka and although cool today, the past few weeks of 30 degree temperature and rain every day has pre-conditioned us for the rainy season in Togo and Ghana. The Lord has continued His blessings throughout the month with travel safety and ministry opportunities. I [Earl] was able to complete the studies and prepare the manuals for the West African pastors, review some messages for churches and take some time to overview the curriculum development process involved in the meetings planned for July 11-13. I think we are ready to fly! Our home church in Huntsville sent us off with this prayer of commitment from Acts 19:20 "May the Word of the Lord grow mightily and prevail." This is our continued prayer.

Kathi has completed another year of teaching at Muskoka Christian school. She writes: "My last day at school was yesterday- how fast the year went! I am assured of the prayers of staff and MCS families and that means so much. I was given some neat gizmos to make my travelling more pleasant. I've had laryngitis for over a week, so am going to the doctor today for a quick check-up and maybe a certificate saying I'm not contagious and do not have SARS. We had our family with us for Fathers' Day weekend and I have lots of great memories stored away. We have a big box in our bedroom and I've been dropping things into it for weeks. Now we have to sort it and fit it into our baggage; a challenge ahead, I think. I've been reassured by many assurances of prayer for me in this adventure to Africa. It was neat that last night's devotions at supper from Joshua 1 reminded me to be strong and of good courage, that the Lord God is with me. I'll miss sitting on the back porch for morning quiet time as the sun rises over Healey Lake; I'll miss watching my flowers grow and I'll really miss my family, especially our 3 precious little boys, BUT I can't even imagine all the wonderful people and places I'll be getting to know in the next few weeks. Stay tuned for more on that later!

Africa Calls...



This picture represents a year's labour in the Word to prepare three Bible courses and a pastors' seminar including manuals and study guides. Thanks to your prayers and support we are able to take this stack of manuals with us to Africa. Pray for God's blessing on His Word.

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. Kathi teaching Sunday School

July 7 - Kathi teaching a girls class

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.

August 3-7 - AFBC (Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches) Pastors' Conference speaker) in Korfidua, Ghana.

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

Note to all: Travel in Africa may prevent sending monthly newsletters for July.

Here is a Word in Season from Earl

If there is any one word that epitomizes our modern society, that word must be "MORE", if two words are necessary, they must be "MORE, MORE". Laurence Shames in his book "The Hunger for More" correctly assesses the appetite of a nation without contentment, gone mad after prosperity: "During the past decade, many people came to believe there didn't have to be a purpose. The mechanism didn't require it. Consumption kept the workers working, which kept the pay checks coming, which kept the people spending, which kept inventors inventing and investors investing, which meant there was more to consume. The system, properly understood, was independent of values and needed no philosophy prop it up. It was a perfect circle, complete in itself-and empty in the middle."

People never have and never will find complete contentment in material prosperity. In seeking to do so, the true source of fulfilment is overlooked: "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." (Jeremiah 2:13 NIV).

Paul found the source of real contentment and though in prison at the time, shared in a letter to the Philippians its secret. The focal point of contentment was a personal relation with Jesus Christ: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21 NIV). This living relationship privileged Paul with the secret of experiencing contentment by a trust that was affirmed in three ways.

First, because Paul knew Christ as his Saviour, he could say "I can accept all things" (Philippians 4:11). Paul had a firm trust in the providence of God. He could accept any circumstance that came his way because, in Christ he knew: "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV)

Next, because Paul knew the Lord, he could say: "I can do all things" (Philippians 4:13). Paul trusted in the power of God. Like the apostle John, Paul understood the principle of the vine and the branches: "I (Jesus) am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV). Paul lived in the power of the Lord.

Finally, because Paul was in Christ, he could say: "I have all things and abound" (Philippians 4:18). Paul had evidenced the provision of God and did not need a closet full of clothes nor a freezer full of food to know that God would meet his every need. He was therefore free from the worry of possessions.

Paul experienced that which is the privilege of every Christian to discover: "Christian contentment is the God-given ability to be satisfied with the loving provision of God in any and every situation." This is true contentment. If there is "more" to be wanted, let it be "More, more about Jesus".

Present Itinerary:

June 24 – August 8 – Teaching tour in Togo & Ghana, West Africa.

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

August 28 – Berean Baptist Church, London, ON

September 11, 18, 25 – ministering in our home church, Riverside Baptist, Huntsville, ON

10-7-20, Our Revised Support Formula:

With two additional churches informing us of their intention to commit to regular support, we now are waiting upon the Lord to burden 10 families from 7 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 give the hearts of His people a burden for this training ministry. Thank you for your prayers.

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. This is a completely legitimate way of supporting our ministry travel costs. We thank you for your consideration.

Cooper Air Miles
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