



Son-rise in Africa Newsletter

ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER

February 2006

Ministry Update...

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. The January/February teaching and meetings tour to Ghana was a blessing. With numerous ABWE personnel and several national pastors a foundation was laid for the formation of an umbrella theological school to address the broader needs of pastoral training in West Africa. The plan includes a three-tier theological education plan that will offer credited studies on an institute, college and seminary level across the West African countries of the Gambia, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cameroon and Nigeria and perhaps into other countries as ABWE partners with other missions of like faith and practice. There is much legwork to be completed but all that participated sensed the Spirit's leading in the formation of a school that has potential for being used mightily of God. In addition to these meetings I was able to complete the two Hermeneutics studies at the Mathetes Baptist Bible Institute and College respectively as well as share the word at two village churches. Although there are many challenges facing the leaders and the churches in the Ho region of Ghana it is evident that God is at work. I was privileged this trip to have opportunity to individually present the gospel on six different occasions. Those I spoke to were very open and enthusiastic to here God's word. Pray that God's kingdom will continue to be advanced.

Kathi's Notes

God continued to bless and encourage me while Earl was away for 3 weeks. We had a wild wind and snowstorm one weekend but our power stayed on. Yay- I didn't have to use the generator! The next week the snowplough didn't even come down our road for 3 days, but our good neighbour, Larry, and our son-in-law, Adam kept the driveway clear for me to get out to teach. Our little Honda Civic is part snowplough, too! Knowing God cares for me so well, gives me peace to let Earl take off for Africa without me. This trip Earl had easy access to email so I was getting almost daily updates on his adventures with taxi drivers, power outages, and the dribbling water supply. I also heard about the great times he had with the Mathews' children and his teaching days at the college.

Africa Calls...

Here is the testimony of Aaron Newland: "I was a child born in a Christian home. I don't like to miss church because I thought through church I will have eternal life. God willing I came across an ABWE missionary named Kurt Mathews. I made a friend to this man who led me to Christ. At first when I go to his house we play different kinds of games and through that he started to ask me wonderful questions like "Aaron, if you were to die tonight and at heaven's gate God asked you 'Why should I accept you?' What would you say?" I answered him because of my good deeds and obedience he will accept me. This man went on further leading me through the Bible, showing me God's Word and carefully explaining them to me. One night after understanding that I was a sinner and I can't save myself, but to believe and trust Him as saviour, I prayed to God to forgive my sins and make me new and rule me. Since then there was a great change in my life. Worldly things I used to do, I don't do them anymore by the help of the Holy Spirit. Now I pray and read my Bible and understand by the help of the Holy Spirit. So I was saved at 16 years old. I thank God for loving me and giving me eternal life." Aaron is a student in the Mathetes Baptist Bible Institute... Africa calls



Here's a Word in Season from Earl

Jeremiah was in despair. As the prophet of God, he had faithfully delivered the Lord's message of doom because of disobedience. Because that doom spelled the fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah was branded a traitor, imprisoned, and placed in a deep muddy pit (Jeremiah 38:6). Where do you go when you're as low as you can get? Jeremiah chose to cling with faith to the God that had promised "with his own eyes he would see Jerusalem fall!" The prophet's later writing expresses his complete trust and dependence upon God: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." (Lamentations 3:22-24 NIV).

In the midst of crisis, stress, and yes - even being as low as we can go, God is an ever present help in trouble. His help comes through hearing His Word and trusting in His promises. This is not wishful thinking,

nor the power of positive thinking, this is faith in the living God who hears and answers prayer: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1). However, the assurance of God's care comes only to those who, like Jeremiah, have responded to the message of God, as unpopular as it might be. Jeremiah preached repentance and obedience, or judgement and captivity. Jerusalem, in arrogant disregard to the message of God, refused to listen. The result was the redemption of Jeremiah from the pit, and the fall of Jerusalem to the enemy.

People in reach of God's help all too often turn aside because of pride or unbelief. The path of deliverance by God is clear: "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land" (Isaiah 1:18-19 NIV). As the hymn states: "Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." In whatever state of despair you may be in, take up a Bible, absorb the message and seek the Lord's help in the spirit of true humility, as Jeremiah bid his own people: "Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, and say: We have sinned and rebelled and you have not forgiven." (Lamentations 3:40-42 NIV).

Please pray with us...

1. ***For wisdom in preparing studies and designing curriculum as the West African Baptist Bible College and Seminary is in the process of being founded.***
2. ***For good health.*** Earl has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will undergo surgery on February 16. Please pray a complete cure and for a speedy recovery from surgery.
3. ***For new church contacts.***
4. ***For the remainder of our support.*** Please pray that the Lord would raise up the additional prayer and financial partners for this ministry. We are presently at 90.56 % of our committed support requirements.
5. ***For West Africa.*** Pray for God to raise up national church leaders. Pray that the churches will understand the principles of stewardship and that the mission team will establish a suitable means to help churches and pastors during the transition from missionary led to pastoral led congregations.

Present Itinerary:

March 25 – Grace Baptist Mission Conference, Simcoe.
March 26 – Springfield Baptist.
April 16 – Trout Creek
April 23 – Riverside Baptist, Huntsville.
April 30 – Fenelon Falls Baptist.
May 7 – Louisville Baptist
May 25 – June 26 – teaching & stewardship seminars in Africa.
July 9 – Lyndock Baptist, Eganville.
July 16 – Pinegrove Baptist, Bracebridge, (tentative).
July 23 – 27 – Triple C Bible Conference, Simcoe.
Aug 6 – Marathon Baptist (tentative)
Aug 13 – Bobcaygeon
Sept 3 – Alta Vista Men's Canoe Trip
Oct 22 – Central Baptist, Brantford.
Oct 29 – Otterville Baptist – a.m., First Baptist, Waterloo – p.m.
Nov. 3 – Dec. 4 – teaching in Africa

Air Miles Assistance

Thanks to air miles assistance we are very close to gaining a free trip to West Africa. 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 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.

Cooper Air Miles
No.
8006 178 1930

We thank you for your consideration.

Dr. & Mrs. Earl Cooper, 1248 Healey Lk. Rd., Bracebridge, ON. P1L 1X3

Ph: 705-645-6371 Fx: 705-645-5632 Email: ekcooper@sympatico.ca