



Son-rise in Africa Newsletter

ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER

March 2006

Ministry Update...

Since our last newsletter I (Earl) have undergone cancer surgery. Kathi tells me that the procedure took about 3 hours and I came out of it talking silly and pumping myself up with the self-administered painkiller. I'll have to take her word for it because all I remember is lying on the operating table with nice warm blankets placed over me and then waking up 20 hours later in a hospital bed without pain and with a decorative line of shiny staples in my body! The surgeon is very pleased with the results and is confident that the cancer was successfully eliminated. Future tests will confirm this as God wills.

The past month's recovery time started out slow because I was unable to sit up comfortably for about 2 weeks. I watched the snow fall in almost record proportions and rather impatiently was forced to watch my dear son-in-law Adam work daily at snow removal. I'm thankful that the Olympics were on television and that March break brought our grandsons (as well as their moms and dads) for a week's visit; otherwise, I would have been very bored. I thank the Lord for a caring family. The last couple of weeks has afforded study and reading time with less discomfort and therefore ability to sit at my desk. I've been able to work away at editing some studies for West Africa, complete our tax returns, rewrite my Ph.D. dissertation for publication, and read 4 or 5 relaxing, no-brainer mystery books. All in all, God has been wonderfully gracious and recuperation has gone smoothly. I look forward to being able to drive and commence ministry again this weekend (March 25-26). I want to thank each of you for your prayers, your many cards of encouragement, and your continued interest in God's ministry for us.



Kathi's Notes

Although there has been added stress to our lives during Earl's surgery/recovery, this has been diminished by many blessings. Our friends and family have been such a great support! As Earl mentioned, our kids have given us lots of help with the day-to-day winter chores in Muskoka. We came home from a doctor's appointment one day to find Adam on the roof, clearing off snow! We used the snowblower so much that it started to fall apart (mind you, it was quite old) but we have replaced it with a new toy that all the boys seem to enjoy. Minne can't wait to cut grass with it in the summer. Papa had great fun driving down the road, pulling 2 little boys in a sled while holding another on his lap; they all returned home with huge smiles. Although David is away, he made lots of phone calls to check on us and blessed me with a lovely message of love at Valentine's. God has been good to allow us such a great family. Meanwhile, the last term of school has begun and we're on the homeward stretch of studies. I am blessed to have such clever kids to teach and a caring staff as friends. Psalm 133 reflects my thoughts on God's blessing "How good and pleasant it is when brothers [and sisters] live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head..."

Here's a Word in Season from Earl

A few years ago a Christmas card that was sent to another family in Ontario was returned. That card had been in "the system" since mid December, being returned to us unopened four months after being posted. It reminded me of believers who get caught up in the world only to miss their God-given purpose. With this in mind, it would be wise to remember the Bible distinction between whom a Christian is, and what a Christian should do. By God's own terms, a Christian is a person (any person) who has turned by faith from self-righteousness and self-justification to Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, thus possessing the gift of salvation: "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

What a Christian should do, more than anything else, is to bring glory to God through a life that carries the music and message of God's love, grace and truth: "Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31), "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16), "But sanctify the Lord

God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15)

Turned aside by a social "system" which focuses so much on possessions, pleasure, pride and power, too many believers have forgotten that they were purchased by God at great expense, by the blood of God's own Son. They have forgotten that the risen Lord carefully "redeemed" them from eternal separation from God, wrapped them wonderfully in His own righteousness and sent them into the world to draw others unto Himself. And that they were re-created in Christ's image for a particular purpose and specific labours as God's own children. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10)..

Like our unopened Christmas card, returned after four months, believers who get caught up in the system miss the whole purpose of their costly possession. "Saved, sent, but caught in the system!" seems such a waste of life! Here is a good reminder from God: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God..." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Please pray with us...

1. For continued good medical reports following Earl's cancer surgery.
2. For continued Mission Presentation Meetings at churches in Canada and the U.S.A.
3. For travel safety.
4. For wisdom as Earl labours with a team to put together a curriculum for the West Africa Baptist Theological Schools.
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 ministry assignments.
7. For the Lord to provide the remainder of our committed support (only \$350/month).
8. For God's blessing as Earl teaches the Word in Africa and in churches & schools across Canada, the U.S.A. while representing ABWE.

Present Itinerary:

March 25 – Grace Baptist, Simcoe, Mission Conference

March 26 – Springfield Baptist.

April 11- Central Baptist, Brantford, Ladies Missionary Meeting

April 16 – Trout Creek.

April 23 – Riverside Baptist, Huntsville.

April 30 – Fenelon Falls Baptist.

May 7 – Louisville Baptist.

May 14 – Fellowship Baptist, Courtland (tentative).

May 25 – June 26 – teaching & stewardship seminars in Africa.

July 9 – Lyndock Baptist, Eganville.

July 16 – Pinegrove Baptist, Bracebridge.

July 23 – 27 – Triple C Bible Conference, Simcoe.

July 30 – Central Baptist Satellite – Waterford (a.m. – tentative).

July 30 – Emmanuel Bible, Simcoe (p.m.).

Aug 6 – Marathon Baptist .

Aug 13 – Fellowship Baptist, Bobcaygeon.

Aug 27 – Riverside Baptist, Huntsville.

Sept 3 – Alta Vista (Ottawa), Men's Canoe Trip (tentative).

Sept ? – First Baptist, Timmins, Leadership Seminars (tentative).

Oct 22 – Central Baptist, Brantford.

Oct 29 – Otterville Baptist – a.m.

Oct 29 - 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. You can help our travel costs by using our Air Miles

number. This is a practical way of supporting our ministry travel costs. 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

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