



Son-rise in Africa Newsletter

**ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER

(for Newsletter Archives go to <http://www.discipleshipministries.ca/>)

September – October 2006

Ministry Update...

One of the blessings of living in Muskoka is having the great wild outdoors at our doorstep. September began with a short wilderness canoe excursion with Earl, our son David and two of David's college school mates Mat Thomson from Windsor and Trevor Pool from the Philippines. The trip proved interesting when the great explorers arrived at the remote wilderness lake short one duffle bag - containing the tents and sleeping bags! Fortunately the night was clear, warm and relatively "bugless," so camping under the stars proved a real treat. The time was relaxing and enjoyable and offered a break from studies for Earl and a short holiday before these young men hit the books at Pensacola Christian College. We enjoyed a second blessing of September when local supporters joined us at our home for a barbeque and time of fellowship. Our hearts were touched with the wonderful expressions of enthusiasm toward the work of training national pastors in Africa. Truly God has enriched our ministry with the involvement of such dedicated men and women of God. The remainder of September proved to be another month of travel ministry and rich blessing as we headed north to Blind River for a Sunday ministry and to First Baptist in Timmins for a leadership seminar. The good turnout from area churches in the Timmins area brought good interaction and an environment of "building one another up" in the faith. I thank all those who participated in this leadership development time, and praise God for the privilege to share His Word. God brought spiritual blessing to all.

Africa Calls...

Earl leaves for West Africa on Thursday, November 2 for another two-country teaching tour. He teaches a college study in Biblical Theology at Mathetes Baptist Bible College in Ho, Ghana as well as a course in Bibliology (The Doctrine of the Scriptures) at the Institute. He then travels over to Palime, Togo where he teaches a study on Ecclesiology (The Doctrine of the Church) and Pneumatology (The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit). Please pray for the national leaders as they undertake these studies that the Lord will give understanding of His Word and equip the men to minister effectively in their churches.



Mathetes Baptist Bible College,
Ho, Ghana

Please pray with us...

- 1. For continued opportunities to represent ABWE Canada and its ministry needs at churches in Canada and the U.S.A.**
- 2. For travel safety.**
- 3. For wisdom as Earl labours with a team to put together a curriculum for the West Africa Baptist Theological Schools.**
- 4. Our desire is to have all our committed support completed by the end of 2006. If 4 churches or families would commit to \$50 per month our support needs would be met. Please pray for God's provision.**
- 5. For God's blessing as Earl finishes preparing the upcoming courses and teaches these studies in Ghana and Togo in November.**
- 6. For Kathi as she continues to teach the junior and senior kindergarten classes at Muskoka Christian School.**

Present Itinerary:

Oct. 1, 15 – Parry Sound Fellowship Baptist
 Oct 22 – Central Baptist, Brantford, ON
 Oct 27-28 – Men of Honour Conference, First Baptist Church, Waterloo, ON

Oct 29 – First Baptist Anniversary Services, Waterloo.
 Nov. 3 – Dec. 4 – teaching in Africa
 Dec. 10 – Otterville Baptist, Otterville, ON

Here's a Word in Season from Earl

North American Thanksgiving is historically linked to the "Harvests of Plenty" that ensured the winter's security for early settlers. These pilgrim's patterned their Thanksgiving after the Old Testament "Feast of Firstfruits." In each situation people were thankful for abundance. Yet true thanksgiving is more than being thankful for a full table, true Thanksgiving is a much deeper expression of gratitude. Paul teaches much about Thanksgiving. He states: "Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing, In everything Give Thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5). True thankfulness begins in a believer's life by being *ABSORBED BY OUR WONDERFUL SITUATION* - "Rejoice always."

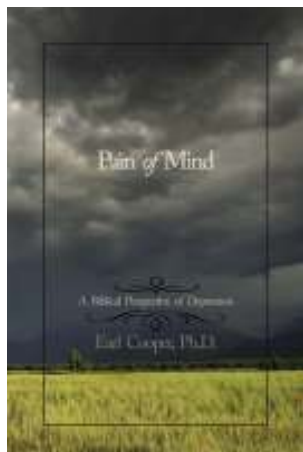
This is possible because the Christian has "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (1 Thess. 1:9). Salvation has placed the believer in the hands of a sovereign God who is committed to their own good. God unfolds history according to His purpose, God controls the evil as well as the good to His own ends! God's good is wrapped in His own character of holiness, purity, love and tied by His own purposes of light and life. To know Him is to "rejoice evermore" that we are in the hands of a sovereign God who is committed to our own good.

True Thanksgiving is rooted in being *CONSUMED BY HIS MEANINGFUL COMMUNION* - "Pray without ceasing." Paul reminds the believer that "God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." (1 Thess. 5:9-10). Salvation has placed every Christian in the constant presence of a gracious God who is obliged to their care. God has promised to be at the believer's side in every circumstance. God has promised to provide all the strength the believer needs for every situation. God's grace is the support we do not deserve giving the strength we do not have. It is the riches of His obligation to our care. To know Him is to practice His presence through the constant spirit of prayer that keeps the Christian dependant upon His care moment by moment.

True thanksgiving is being *FILLED WITH LIFE'S GRATEFUL EXPRESSION* - "In everything give thanks because this is the will of God" for all recognize that.. "He who calls us is faithful" (1 Thess. 5:24). Salvation is a call to a loving relationship to the Lord who is always faithful His word. Every circumstance is a blessing from our good and gracious God, drawing us closer to Him. Every circumstance is a blessing from our good and gracious God, giving opportunity to delight in Him.

Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day. True thanksgiving is the continual expression of grateful heart not out of abundance, but out of belonging, as Paul reminded the believing Romans: "Whether we live or die, we are the Lords" (Rom. 14:8). Now that's reason to be thankful!

Publications



Earl's book "Pain of Mind" is now in print. Here is a description of the book: "*Depression is the common cold of emotional struggle. The high incident of debilitating emotional struggles among believers, the broad use of the term depression, and the apparent problem of confusing and conflicting approaches to depression have created a need for a Biblical perspective of depression among the Christian community. This book addresses that need. By implementing the results of this study, pastors and Christian counsellors can be more specific in giving Bible-based counsel with the comfort of defined Biblical authority. Also, by providing clear Biblical direction for suffering believers, the apparent confusion can be addressed. This study affirms to the suffering the fact that Scriptures have the answers for life. By relating appropriate Bible truths regarding emotional despondency, and thus providing Biblical tools, this study promotes the ministry of the body of Christ by addressing the emotional needs of its members.*" A short excerpt is available at

<http://www.DiscipleshipMinistries.ca/pubs.shtml> . The book can be ordered at

<http://www.earlcoopersbook.com/> , <http://www.amazon.com/> , <http://www.amazon.ca/> , and

should be available soon (without mailing fees) at your local Christian book store. Our prayer is that God would use this study to help the body of Christ in the common struggle of depression.

Air Miles Assistance

Thanks to air miles assistance we are 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.

Cooper Air Miles
No.
8006 178 1930

Dr. & Mrs. Earl Cooper, 1248 Healey Lake Rd., Bracebridge, ON. P1L 1X3
Ph: 705-645-6371 Email: ekcooper@sympatico.ca Website: discipleshipministries.ca
ABWE CANADA, 980 Adelaide Street South, Suite 34, London, ON. N6E 1R3