



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/>)

November 2006

Ministry Update...From Africa

This update comes from Ho, after two full weeks in Ghana. The first week was quite interesting, the road grader worked past the Mathews (where the guest house is located – my African home) on Sunday. I was told that there is a big push in HO to get the roads improved because the President appointed Ho as a new municipality of his government. The grader accidentally tore up the water line (a plastic 1 1/2 inch hose that was in the ground about 1 inch). So we were without water supply for three days and were dependant on a 45 gallon drum of rain water (for washing – there was a supply of drinking water on hand).

I have completed teaching at the Institute a study on Bibliology (the doctrine of the Bible), and am still working at the College teaching Biblical Theology. The students are eager however the circumstances are often challenging. The early rains did not materialize as usual so the water level is down considerably. This has necessitated turning off the power for 6 hours every 3 days. The electricity is generated by a dam on the Volta lake, the power is shut off to keep the water at the proper level. So all have to bear the heat (38 C +) without the benefit of even a fan. Driving through the town in complete darkness with people walking in all directions is also a challenge as college runs until 6:30 p.m. and darkness descends around 6.

I have had the additional privilege of sharing God's word at Grace Baptist church in Ho and at Hasu Baptist church. Each of these churches are pastored by graduates from our ABWE schools. George at Hasu has completed the Institute program and is currently enrolled at the college. It was a special blessing to be at Hasu Baptist for Sunday School and follow George as he taught his adult class from the course notes he received at the Mathetes Baptist Bible Institute. These notes came from our home, written for the students and passed on to the church folks because of the faithful support of God's people in Canada and the USA. Kathi and I consider ourselves very privileged to be a part of this ministry with you.

I leave for Togo on Saturday to teach 2 other courses and am scheduled to return home in early December.

Africa Calls... I travel from my guest house to the college road access by taxi, driven by Francis, one of the institute students. Kofi Francis bought his own car to work for himself as a taxi driver, however, he had his license taken away by the police. Francis's former boss had an accident with the taxi that Francis **used** to drive. The police told Francis that he had to bring his former boss into the police. When he did not bring the man in, the police stopped Francis and took away his license! It seems that the police don't do their own work – others are expected to. Togbe (who is a chief, and a member of one of the Baptist churches) and Kurt Mathews (ABWE missionary) went with Francis to the police station and, having finally convinced the taxi driver to give himself up, – convinced the police to give Francis his license back. We praise God for His intervention and we learn to adjust to the Ghana way of life! Francis is a member of Grace Baptist in Ho and is an active leader in the AWANA program. Africa calls...



Kofi (Born on Friday)
Francis Dzato

Please pray with us...

1. For effective teaching while in Africa. Our prayer is to labour in the Spirit's power to bring understanding to the pastors and equip them to teach their own people.
2. For travel safety – for Kathi as she travels to teach and minister in Ontario and for Earl as he travels in Ghana and Togo.
3. For wisdom as Earl labours with a team to put together a curriculum for the newly established African Baptist Theological Schools or ABTS with a goal to deliver theological education in the African countries of Ghana, Togo, Benin, The Gambia, Cameroon and Liberia. It is "Schools" because we envision a four-stage program, beginning with church Bible Institutes taught by pastors in local churches. The current Bible Institute will be upgraded to offer the equivalent of a high school diploma. A new Bible College will be started, which will offer a bachelor's degree. Finally, at some point down the road we plan to have a seminary level program to offer graduate degrees. We hope to have stages 2 and 3 operational within the next two

years. This is going to require faith, finances, and work, but we believe it will strengthen churches throughout West Africa, and lead to a church planting movement that will cross international boundaries.

4. For our support requirements. 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 Kathi as she continues to teach the junior and senior kindergarten classes at Muskoka Christian School.

Present Itinerary:

Dec. 10 – Otterville Baptist, Otterville, ON

Here's a Word in Season from Earl

Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again. Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. (Ecclesiastes 11:1-2). In Bible lands there is a unique way of sowing seed. The farmer floods a small field then scatters his seed on the water, as the soil absorbs the water, the seed settles into the soil awaiting the sun and time to germinate. For the poor, the grain in the home used for making bread is the very source of seed for the field. The farmer literally takes the bread (grain for bread) from the table and by faith sows it on the water in hope of an abundant harvest.

There are two ways of treating the seed. The botanist splits it up and discourses on its curious characteristics. The simple farmer eats and sows, sows and eats. Similarly there are two ways of treating the gospel. A critic dissects it, raises a mountain of debate about the structure of the whole, and relation of its parts, and when he is done with his argument, he is done. To him the letter is dead. He neither lives on it himself, nor spreads it for the good of his neighbours; he neither eats nor sows. The disciple of Jesus, hungering for righteousness, takes the seed whole; it is bread for today's hunger, and seed for tomorrow's supply.

Both the sowing of the seed of the gospel (the message of free salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of God's perfect sacrifice - His own Son) and the receiving of the seed of the gospel, is a matter of faith. For those privileged to experience new birth by faith in Christ, the sowing is a matter of duty as the salt and light of the earth (Matt. 5), and a matter of joy because God has promised an increase; "He that goes forth with weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalm 126:6). For those receiving the seed is a matter of wonder and joy in new found life, hope and purpose: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor. 5:17).

God's passion in this great work of sowing and reaping was clearly stated by Jesus: "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2). It's almost impossible to see a rainbow and not point it out to someone else. It's the kind of thing that just must be shared. You see one and you want to tell someone about it. If you are by yourself and see one, it's frustrating. The gospel is such a beautiful expression of God's love that it just must be shared. Sow the seed!!

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.

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