



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/>)

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Ministry Update...

As a new year of ministry commences we wish to thank all of you for your continued interest and encouragement. Because of the many prayer and financial supporters of this work we are able to help address the vital need of training pastors in West Africa. Since joining ABWE four years ago, the Lord has blessed us with the privilege of being involved in the teaching/training of over 110 pastors in the countries of Ghana and Togo involving 14 different classes and 7 seminars as well as the distribution of hundreds of manuals written and produced from our Bracebridge home. Plans for the newly formed ABTS (African Baptist Theological Schools) include expanding training centers to Benin, The Gambia, Liberia and Cameroon.

On the home front in 2006, Kathi and I (and our son David - when home from Bible College in the summer) ministered God's Word and shared an Africa mission update in 21 different local churches in Canada. Earl also presented 4 Bible conferences throughout the year. God has richly blessed us in providing so many opportunities to share our passion - teaching God's Word. Please pray for us as we begin the arranging of the 2007 schedule for Canada/U.S. ministry and continue the labours of producing study/class manuals and teaching in West Africa.

In regard to our support, despite an increase in commitment for 2007, that final support commitment of about \$220/month still eludes us (due mostly to the dropping Canadian dollar value). Nevertheless, we can report with praise to our God that single gifts and donations sent last year kept us in the black. To the praise of the Lord, Earl's cancer surgery and recovery last year did not interfere whatsoever with the previously planned full teaching schedule. We would also add that a recent check up with the surgeon indicates no evidence of any "leftover" cancer cells at all. Our God is great! We look to 2007 with an anticipation of God's continued blessing as we minister in Africa and on the home front.

Kathi's Notes...

"...a cheerful heart has a continual feast" Proverbs 15:15b. This verse describes our Christmas celebrations. Not only was it a continual feast to the stomach, but more importantly, to our hearts. All our children were here and what fun we had! There wasn't much snow, but the lake froze over, providing many hours of skating. If grandchildren are the crown of old men, they are precious gems for old women, I think. Although all the little boys run to find 'Papa' first, they return for a big hug with 'Gammy', knowing that she always has good stories to read. A special memory for me is tucking Drew & Caleb into bed, reading storybooks, and then playing "I Spy Something on the Christmas Tree" as the tree twinkled in the dark. We had a great time in Niagara Falls with David and his special friend, Aleece. She flew in from Washington state and spend over 2 weeks with us. She is precious and we soon learned why Dave loves her so much. We are excited to see what the Lord is doing in each of our children's lives. Michele's family is planning a summer mission ministry in Portugal. Teresa is a wonderful, imaginative mommy to little Kai and baby Izaac. The Lord is truly gracious in sending forth His lovingkindness!

Here is a Word in Season from Earl

On the top of a hill in a Midwestern state stands a courthouse so situated that raindrops falling on one side of the roof travel by way of the Great Lakes into the Atlantic, while drops landing on the opposite side find their way through the Ohio and Mississippi to the Gulf. Just a breath of wind one way or the other may determine whether a single raindrop will end up either in the Gulf or in the Atlantic. Even so, one single decision is enough to determine man's destiny in the present and for eternity.

God challenged the nation Israel with the importance of making the right choices when He said: "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). Israel was given a clear choice – life or death, blessing or curses. Throughout history, God has offered these choices to man.

Despite the miracles and the message, there were always those even in Jesus' day who denied these choices by refusing self-examination for fear of the truth. Jesus said: "They that are whole do not need a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." The Pharisees of Jesus' day could not bear to face the fact that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Consequently, they ignored the problem that "repentance and faith" could have solved before eternal suffering came. In denying the choices, they made their choice and went to a suffering eternity separated from God.

For this reason, even as our medical doctors plead physical self-examination and offer professional help, God pleads spiritual self-examination and Christ's help. The Bible teaches that man does not deserve heaven, nor can he earn heaven: "For by grace are we saved through faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." Salvation is by God's grace. Grace implies a favour freely offered, something given yet completely undeserved. Salvation is a gift. This implies something given out of love, something certainly unearned. The only involvement that man has in securing heaven is the response of repentance and faith. Repentance involves true sorrow for sin and faith believes Christ paid the penalty of sin on the cross and rose from the dead to offer eternal life: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."(Acts 4:12). Salvation is Faith's choice to accept Jesus as one's personal Saviour, it is to choose the Lord who is our life. Salvation's choice is the heartbeat of ABWE's mission around the world. Have you made the right choice?

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. And for Kathi and Earl who will be attending a Mission Conference in Accra, Ghana, March 19 -24.
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.
4. For our support requirements as mentioned above.
5. For Kathi as she continues to teach the Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes at Muskoka Christian School.

Present Itinerary for 2007:

African Teaching Itinerary for 2007: Feb 15 - Mar 23; May 24 – June 25; Sept 6 – Oct 22; Dec 28 – Feb 12 2008.

Home Front Itinerary: Jan. 28 a.m. - Calvary Gospel Church, Blind River, ON.

Jan 28 p.m. – Baptist Church, Elliot Lake, ON.

Feb. 4 – Courtland Bible Fellowship, Courtland ON.

Feb. 11 – Otterville Baptist Church, Otterville, ON.

Apr. 1 – Stoney Creek Baptist Church, London, ON.

Apr 15 – Riverside Baptist Church, Huntsville, ON.

Apr. 29 - Havelock Fellowship Baptist Church, Havelock, ON.

We are just beginning to make contact with Canadian & American churches for ministry in 2007. If you are interested in having us share our ABWE "Son-rise in Africa" ministry, or be involved in a Mission Conference, or conduct a Bible Conference, please do not hesitate to contact us. *Our aim continues to be to build the body of Christ up in North America while sharing the ministry needs of the body of Christ in West Africa.*

Earl's Book



For those who have enquired, Earl's book is available from any book store by asking for "Pain of Mind: A Biblical Perspective of Depression" or by using ISBN 1-4259-5194-5. A short excerpt is available at <http://www.DiscipleshipMinistries.ca/pubs.shtml> . The book also can be ordered by internet at <http://www.earlcoopersbook.com/> , <http://www.amazon.com/> , <http://www.amazon.ca/> and other internet book warehouse resources.

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**

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