



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/>)

February 2007

Ministry Update...

While the cold wind blows and the snow continues to accumulate throughout Ontario and the Northern States, I [Earl] struggle in the 30+ degree centigrade heat of West Africa. Every 5 days the power is turned off for 12 hours to conserve water in the Volta Lake dam. Those hat breathless nights are the hardest to get used to. That's when I imagine snow shoeing across Healey Lake with the cold wind biting my face! Nevertheless, God has blessed the ongoing Mathetes Baptist Bible College study on the Doctrine of the Church as also enabled me to complete a Bible Institute course on Proverbs about personal sanctification. There have been a total of 21 students taught, including 6 new students from Hasu Baptist church where Pastor George is leading.

The Lord has also privileged me with the opportunity to preach at Emmanuel Baptist church and Hasu Baptist church in the past two weekends. While at Hasu I was able to snap a picture of the progress of Pastor George's house project mentioned last month. The work progresses as funds are available but has been delayed somewhat by the severity of the dry season which necessitates all water for cement work being carried a fair distance by hand. George is praising God for His provision thus far. I also praise God and pass on my gratitude to all those who have contributed to this project. My estimate is that the work is 50% complete. I travel from Ghana to Togo at the beginning of March to teach 2 courses at the Pastoral Institute in Kpalime, then I join Kathi and all the ABWE West Africa missionaries for a mission conference in Accra, Ghana the third week on March. We return home at the end of March when Kathi once again takes up her teaching responsibilities at the Muskoka Christian School and I complete course preparation and the student manuals for my return to West Africa in May. Thank you for your continued care and provision of this ministry.

Kathi's Notes... As I write this, a winter storm is blowing ice pellets, then snowflakes, and then more ice pellets at us. It's a Snow Day—hooray! It's my first one of the winter! Since Earl left in February I have been busy at school with assessments and writing report cards. That must mean that March Break is soon—hooray again! At home, Mom is recuperating from laser cataract surgery and preparing for a trip to Florida, so I'm helping her with that. As I flipped the calendar to a new month, I realized that in less than 2 weeks, I will be in West Africa to attend the conference there and visit Ho, Ghana for a weekend. I am a bit apprehensive about travelling alone, but Earl has given me good travel tips--eg. "I think you should ignore the numbers on the boarding passes from Toronto- they are never correct for Amsterdam." It will be good to meet more co-workers and learn more about the ministry in other regions of West Africa.

Africa Calls... Let me introduce you to one of the newest Mathetes Baptist Bible students: "I Frank Tsatsu, in the year 2006 when I visited Hasu Baptist church and heard the salvation message preached by Pastor George, from then I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour as it were written in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."



Here is a Word in Season from Earl

Jesus said that He came to offer abundant life. This has been defined as a passion for God, the pursuit of God Himself. It is being in a relationship with the Lord where God makes Himself uniquely real every day. Israel's entrance into the promised land as described in the book of Joshua, is a graphic portrayal of the believer's pursuit of this abundant life. A study in Israel's Journey to Jordan evidences the apparent Obstacles to The Pursuit of the Abundant Life, the first of which is *Failing to see God's earnest desire to lead His people to abundance*. For example, God's willing heart is evident in Exodus where: He is willing to bless many for the faith of few (Ex. 1:17-21), He is willing to agonize His people to bring forth a leader (Ex. 1:22 – 2:22), He is willing to invoke His promises when His own cry out (Ex.2:23-25), He is willing to uniquely reveal Himself to equip His leadership (Ex.3:2), He is willing to patiently wait for His

leadership to come around (Ex.4), He is willing to magnify the burden of bondage upon His people in order to convince that His is the only path to freedom, (Ex. 5:5-9) and where He is willing to destroy the strength of a nation to demonstrate His sovereign power and the uniqueness of His people (Ex.3:19-29, chapters 7 – 14).

The measure of God's passion for His people to enjoy abundance is clear in His willingness to "move mountains" and invoke struggle to achieve it. The same is true today. God's desire is for His own to enjoy the abundant life in Christ. Failing to see this passion is failing to see God's own continuing love for those who have received Christ. Accepting Christ as Saviour is accepting God's love by believing that "God demonstrated His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Yet it is characteristic of believers to either doubt the continuation of that love because of difficult circumstances, or become complacent to that continuing love through the routine of religion! In either event, the constant reminder of God's unwavering, unconditional, unending love is the greatest motivate toward pursuit of a deepening relationship with the living God who has promised: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and show Myself to him" (John 14:21).

Abbe Henri de Tourville (1842-1903) once wrote: "As for that which is beyond your strength, be absolutely certain that our Lord loves you, devotedly and individually, loves you just as you are.... Accustom yourself to the wonderful thought that God loves you with a tenderness, a generosity, and an intimacy that surpasses all your dreams. Give yourself up with joy to a loving confidence in God and have courage to believe firmly that God's action toward you is a masterpiece of partiality and love. Rest tranquilly in this abiding conviction."

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 Ghana 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 -23.
3. For wisdom as Earl labours with a team to put together a curriculum for the newly established African Baptist Schools of Theology (ABST) with a goal to deliver theological education in the African countries of Ghana, Togo, Benin, The Gambia, Cameroon and Liberia.
4. For our support deficit of approximately \$225/month.
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:

Apr 15 – Riverside Baptist Church, Huntsville, ON.

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

We are continuing 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.*

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.