



***Son-rise in Africa Newsletter***  
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION  
Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER  
(for Newsletter Archives go to <http://www.discipleshipministries.ca/>)  
**April 2007**



## Ministry Update...

The month of April was full of contrasts beyond even the weather. Our ministry time was spent continuing to prepare studies for Africa, contacting churches in Canada to complete our 2007 schedule, making travel arrangements for Earl's next teaching trip to West Africa in May/June and our trip to Pensacola Christian College for our son David's graduation on May 9, and finally getting some very needed yard (bush) work done at our home in Bracebridge (before the black flies descend). God blessed in every way! Apart from about 4 weekends (mostly in December) our schedule is filled. As well, the Lord opened a new door for teaching in the country of Cameroon. This new field will be visited in September with a busy schedule of college teaching, pastoral seminars and preaching at various churches. This is an exciting development; however, it has its challenges as well. These challenges are mostly to do with transportation. Arrangements for flights cannot be made from Canada so Earl must work at finalizing all travel arrangements while in West Africa May/June. It appears as though the cost of inter-continental African transportation is proportionately much higher (per km) than flying from Canada to Ghana. The travel costs may just about double for this trip. With Liberia also inquiring about the possibility of Earl coming to teach, our \$200 per month committed support deficit becomes much more critical to raise, especially if these new countries are to become regular teaching stops along with Ghana and Togo. We trust that God will supply and do ask you to pray for that need to be met.

**Africa Calls... A new African project presents itself.** The training of African church leaders is always challenging due to the lack of funds that these men face. The average income in the villages around Ho where the Mathetes Baptist Bible Institute is located is about \$2 U.S. per day. (This is double what it was in 2003, but still represents very little money to live on). Most of the leaders have small pieces of land to farm in order to provide for their families, and some have additional jobs when they can find them. This results in very busy lives – rising between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. each day to work the farm, heading to work (often on an empty stomach), working until evening, returning home to eat and address family needs. Going to school from Thursday morning to Saturday noontime is a great sacrifice for these men – in time and resources (food and travel costs – when walking just takes too long!). As well as providing the class notes and materials, it is the desire of the ABWE Ghana Team to provide meals and help with transportation costs for the students while attending the Institute classes. The costs for helping the average 20 – 23 men that attend is approximately \$130 U.S. per session or \$3000 per year for the 23 sessions that are planned. The Ghana team has established a project to raise funds for this purpose. You can help by sending donations to ABWE Canada (address below) marked – “Ghana Bible Institute Project” ... **Africa Calls**

## Here is a Word in Season from Earl

There is a great temptation today to misrepresent Christ for the sake of supposed peace and harmony among mankind, to deny the clear teaching of Jesus for a more palatable message of multi-faith unity, to appease those who wrongfully accuse Christianity of intolerance by denying the exclusive claims of Christ. Yielding to such temptation may be the politically correct thing to do, and may meet the approval of the majority, but it is error all the same. Jesus was the most tolerable person who ever lived: He would not allow the bigotry of the day to keep him from ministering to the Samaritan woman (believed to be inferior people) who was immoral by God's law. Yet he offered her eternal life, only found in Him (see John 4). Jesus did not get upset when four men ripped up the roof over His head, to present a paralytic to Him. He healed the man and He forgave His sins, an act that only God could do (see Mark 2).

When Jesus was presented with a woman caught in adultery, although the law required stoning, He shamed the accusers into silence and forgave the woman (see John 8). The gospels evidence the tolerance of Jesus. Whether reaching out to touch “the unclean lepers” or inviting “the evil rich” to join him, whether sitting at meals with “those crooked tax collectors” or receiving homage from “that wicked prostitute,” Jesus was a model of the mercy, grace and love of God as witnessed by the Scriptures: “We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). As the champion of Truth as well as Grace, Jesus could not deny who He was, nor neglect why He came. *This alone* made Jesus unique and makes Christianity exclusive! *Jesus alone* was “the only begotten Son of God”. He was not just another prophet among many, He was THE MESSIAH foretold by the Old Testament prophets to be very God (see Isaiah 9:6). As both God and man, *Jesus alone* was without sin. As such *Jesus alone* was the necessary perfect sacrifice to pay for the sins of the world. Therefore, *Jesus alone* is the means for mankind to gain access to Holy God. This, God proved with the raising of Jesus from the dead. *Jesus alone* has conquered death; therefore, *Jesus alone* has everlasting life to give to all who will believe.

The historical Christian message cannot be compromised: "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). Truth, whether scientific or spiritual, is singular, absolute and undeniable. To tell someone that gravity makes jumping from a high place dangerous, is not intolerance, rather it is responsibility. It is up to that person to accept or reject this truth. To share with the world that by *Jesus alone* "no man comes to the Father" (John 14:6) is not intolerance, it is responsibility. Truth is shared and people are free to choose. What is your 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 our trip to Pensacola FL for Dave's graduation in May (Earl by car, Kathi by plane) and for Earl as he travels in Ghana and Togo in May/June.
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 \$200/month.
5. For Kathi as she continues to teach the Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes at Muskoka Christian School.

### **Present Itinerary for 2007:**

May 23 – June 25 – West Africa.  
May 6 - Louisville Baptist, ON.  
May 9 – 14 – Florida trip for Dave's graduation from Pensacola Christian College.  
July 1 – July 21 – Holiday (our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
July 29 - South End Fellowship Baptist Church, Owen Sound  
Aug. 12 – Springfield Baptist Church  
Aug. 19 – Calvary Baptist Church, Pembroke  
Aug. 26 – Lyndock Baptist Church, Eganville

Aug. 28-30 – West Africa Curriculum Design Meeting, Harrisburg  
Sept. 6 – Oct 8 – West Africa  
Oct. 21 – Victory Fellowship Baptist Church, Hanover  
Oct 28 – Alta Vista Baptist Church, Ottawa  
Nov. 4 – Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia  
Nov. 11 – Central Baptist Church, Brantford  
Nov. 25 – Fenelon Falls Baptist Church  
Dec. 28 – Feb 12 2008 – West Africa

**Kathi's Notes...** I really appreciate your prayers and loving support as I travelled solo to Ghana in March. God was faithfully working ahead of my steps and I needn't have worried about the trip (sometimes it does not help to have a good imagination!) We had a good weekend in Ho, in the region where the Ghanaian team is working. One evening the team had a pizza supper and then practised our presentation for the Watch Me Conference. Using a time line, we showed the events and the people involved in establishing ABWE's ministry in Ghana. Another night we experienced a great thunder-banger of a storm that took out the electricity—it was a sorry night for sleeping, not having fans to blow away the hot air. At the 'Watch Me Conference' we heard reports from missionaries in other areas of West Africa--such a variety of ministry avenues to reach out to needy people! It was wonderful to see those from our Candidate Seminar class of 2003 who had made their way to West Africa and also to see the impact Canadians have on the West African team. We were able to spend some time with the Canadian director, Dave Smith, and talk about ministry plans for ABWE Canada and our involvement in that. As the school year ends, I find my calendar filled with special days—Mothers' Tea Party, Dave's graduation in Pensacola, Dave's birthday, Dave's girlfriend Aleece visits, Science Fair BBQ, GrandFriends Day, Earl's trip, Dad's Night Out, End-of-the-Year special at Healey Lake, JK/SK Breakfast at School, Awards & Grad Night. What did I forget? And just 7 weeks of teaching left!

### **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.

<p>Cooper Air Miles No. 8006 178 1930</p>
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**Dr. & Mrs. Earl Cooper, 1248 Healey Lake Rd., Bracebridge, ON. P1L 1X3**  
**Ph: 705-645-6371 Email: [ekcooper@sympatico.ca](mailto:ekcooper@sympatico.ca) Website: [DiscipleshipMinistries.ca](http://DiscipleshipMinistries.ca)**  
**ABWE CANADA, 980 Adelaide Street South, Suite 34, London, ON.**