



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



## **Ministry Update...**

Earl spent the last of May and the month of June in West Africa teaching. Here is an excerpt from an email he sent from Ghana which should indicate some of his unique experiences in West Africa: "Last Sunday was an interesting day - I preached at Emmanuel Baptist church, Kodzobi then the whole church walked the widow, whose husband died a week ago, back to her home. There was a formal time of greeting, welcoming and speech making with the congregation seated on one side and the family facing the congregation on the other side. Water was passed around in community cups - a part of the welcome (I declined as did the Totman's and many others - the important thing is to be offered whether you accept or not!) After this the whole congregation walked over to a sick lady's home. They dragged her out of her bed to sit outside while several prayed for her - she looked like death warmed over! This was an interesting look at the culture. Togbe, a believing chief, was attending and although he was related to the man who died, he had to sit on the side of the community because, as the chief, he must always speak for the community.

The classes all went well - Thursday and Friday were 7-hour teaching days with College in the afternoon and Institute in the morning. We continued to get rain every second day or so, so the weather has stayed bearable. I went to Grace Baptist in Ho on Saturday to speak to the AWANA. There were about 30 kids and Seyram had them in tow - when they got out of line in their game enthusiasm - Seyram just smacked them a good one across the head! They were very attentive to the story - they enjoyed my actions and Seyram translated with exaggerated actions!

Sunday proved interesting. Togbe picked me up to take me to Rock of My Salvation church in Goefe; however, it was market day and the police stopped him on that terrible road to the church. His insurance sticker was expired so they said he would not be allowed to continue. We waited 30 minutes while he "talked" with the police. People were going by yelling at the police to let Togbe (the chief) alone (I think the police wanted money and knew that a chief should have some; however, Togbe, a Christian, will not offer bribes!). Anyway, we finally got underway and were only 1 hour late - which means that many of the people were just arriving when we did. Mawter, one of my students, taught S.S. - straight out of the class notes he had that week at Institute (on spiritual gifts) I preached on God's building programme from Nehemiah 4-5. After church we stopped at the town's "elders" meeting which was under the "elders' tree". Togbe is not the chief of this town but grew up in the town. He said that the custom of the people meant he had to stop and show respect. We were introduced to the 20 or so that had gathered, were offered a drink of water, then were on our way. Togbe said they were meeting because a great man of the community died last week and they were planning a "suitable" funeral."

## **Here is a Word in Season from Earl**

There once was a blacksmith who had two pieces of iron which he wished to weld into one. He took them just as they were, all cold and hard, and put them on the anvil, and began to hammer with all this might, but they were still two pieces, and they would not unite. At last he remembered what he should never have forgotten. He thrust both of them into the fire, took them out red-hot, laid one on the other, and by one or two blows of the hammer they soon became one.

In Psalm 133:1-2 we read: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments." It was the prayer of Christ that his people would be one as He and the Father are one (John 17). By the Cross of Christ, God has anointed his people with the "precious oil" of the blood of Christ. It is a cleansing blood, for here alone can forgiveness and removal of sins hurt be found. The blood of Christ is also a uniting oil, for on Calvary's Cross was the great love in Christ displayed. Here he was melted in the furnace of wrath, and beaten on the anvil of death, to be made one with His own., and to make His own one.

In the science lab, a mouse can quickly find its way through a maze to food and thereafter go straight to the nourishment. However, if the way is blocked completely, the mouse, after attempting every dead end

path, will eventually look up to climb above the walls. Broken unity among God's people is a roadblock to God's blessings. For this cause, God's people are urged to look up with this reminder: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph 4:29-32).

All those who have accepted Christ as Saviour are a unique family: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). They have a unity to preserve. They have a diversity to value. They have a selfless task in which to engage – to love and serve God. What do God's children say about Christ's sacrifice if they accept the cleansing and reject the uniting?

### **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. Next trip in September includes a trip to Cameroon.
2. For travel safety –for our holiday trip to the East Coast and for summer ministry.
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 \$250/month.

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

July 1 – July 21 – Holiday (our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
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...** With school finished and the summer stretching out before me, I'm planning to take time to relax, refresh and read, read, read. (I've just finished my 3<sup>rd</sup> book!) We have a holiday to the East Coast planned for July with a week at a cottage on the Bay of Fundy. There are also family times planned- Earl's sister is coming from Alberta, our niece is staying with us for the summer, and Michele's family will be with us for a week in August. Minne & Michele are in Portugal for a summer ministry involving sports clinics and camp. We hear that things are going well for them—how exciting! Dave is home for the summer and working on the Muskoka Lakes again, so he's a happy guy. He commented to me, "It's so nice to be home- I can just go to the refrigerator whenever I'm hungry". Teresa & Adam are coming out for a week when we're on holiday and they will enjoy the lake and water the gardens (I hope). In August I'm looking forward to visiting some of our supporting churches and then preparing for another school year at Muskoka Christian School. God has been so faithful in providing for the needs of our school; it will be exciting to see what He has planned for next year. I expect my class will be larger and that in itself is a great blessing.

### **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**  
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