



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

### **Ministry Update...**

July was vacation time, spent getting some needed work done around the house where maintenance never ends, and spent on a two week holiday to the east coast of Canada. We were blessed by the worship ministries of Fellowship Baptist Church, Kingston, N.S. with Pastor Jason Koutstaal and Main Street Baptist Church, Sackville, N.B. with Pastor Andrew Swanson. Earl got to go mackerel fishing with Pastor Jason a couple of times. The break was refreshing and the scenery breathtaking, especially the sunsets over the Bay of Fundy. Now that vacation time has come to an end Earl continues to work on the Romans study being prepared for Mathetes Baptist College in Ho, Ghana as well as the manuals for Angelology for the Pastors in Cameroon. September's trip to Cameroon represents the first opportunity Earl has had to extend the ABWE teaching ministry to this country. Please pray that all the visa and flight arrangements will be in place for this important introduction.

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

Maggie Kuhn, head of the *Grey Panthers*, tells of an interesting fact about sandhill cranes. All during the time one bird is leading, the rest are honking, signaling their affirmation. From sandhill cranes we learn the value of encouragement. Yet mankind with its self centered interest, regularly fails in this business of encouragement, leaving many of its own with a sense of despair and loneliness. Christians have no better record. Sadly, the church is often a place of discouragement rather than encouragement, leaving many to agree with Asher Ben Jehiel, who, nearly 700 years ago, said "Don't rely on the broken reed of human support."

The New Testament word most often translated "encourage" portrays a picture like the one presented by the sandhill cranes. The word is "*parakaleo*" and suggests a drawing close for the purpose of encouragement, comfort, or instruction. Yet the certainty of Christian encouragement does not come from fellow believers but from God himself by way of His Holy Spirit. Jesus promised: "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another *Comforter*, that he may abide with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth... for he dwells with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:16-17).

The ministry of God's Holy Spirit is one of encouragement, of drawing close to every believer's heart with expressions of affirmation. This affirmation comes from a God given sense of the unifying work of His love and labour among His people. The Holy Spirit brings this "sense" through the light of God's Word: "hearts may be *encouraged*, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God" (Colossians 2:2).

The self-sacrificial love of God, produced in the heart of a believer, overcomes man's tendency toward self-centeredness, liberating a Christian to truly act in the best interests of others. Such actions in turn bind God's people together with the wonder of family care and comfort. This encouraging love was evidenced in the early church, and can be seen today in churches that yield to Christ's sovereign control and headship.

As well, God, through the Holy Spirit, builds understanding of Himself, His ways, and the work He is doing around the believer. Here a deepening sense of awe toward God is felt. This in turn produces a spiritual confidence or assurance of God's continuing care and successful rule, bringing great encouragement.

"Mary was having a tough day and moaned to her mom and brother, "Nobody loves me -- the whole world hates me!" Her brother, busily occupied playing a game, hardly looked up at her and passed on this encouraging word: "That's not true, Mary. Some people don't even know you." Unlike this insensitive brother, God encourages His own by giving them a special blessing; the sense that He Himself knows them, is with them, and willing to reveal more of Himself each day!

Need encouragement? - look to Christ, he never fails! (1 Corinthians 13).

## **Please pray with us...**

1. For a successful and practically profitable Curriculum Writers Workshop in Harrisburg from Aug 28 – 30.
2. For the required *letter of invitation* to go to Cameroon from Pastor Samuel Boum to arrive in time for visa application. And for all flights to be booked (from Togo) expediently.
3. 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.
4. For travel safety –for summer ministry.
5. 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.
6. For our support deficit of approximately \$250/month which, with the additional travel expenses, will drop our ABWE account behind approximately \$3000 each year.

## **Present Itinerary for 2007:**

Aug. 12 – Springfield Baptist Church.  
Aug. 19 – Calvary Baptist Church, Pembroke.  
Aug. 26 – Lyndock Baptist Church, Eganville.  
Aug. 28-30 – West Africa Curriculum Writers Workshop, Harrisburg, PA  
Sept. 6 – Oct 8 – West Africa.  
Oct. 14 – Marathon Baptist Church, Marathon, ON.  
Oct. 21 – Victory Fellowship Baptist Church, Hanover.  
Oct 28 – Alta Vista Baptist Church, Ottawa.

Nov. 4 – Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia.  
Nov. 5–8 – Fellowship Baptist Convention, Hamilton.  
Nov. 11 – Central Baptist Church, Brantford.  
Nov. 12–16 – Field Prep Seminar, Harrisburg (tentative)  
Nov. 17-18 – First Baptist Church Mission Conference, Waterloo.  
Nov. 25 – Fenelon Falls Baptist Church  
Dec. 28 – Feb 12 2008 – West Africa

**Kathi's Notes...** What a great, restful time we had in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick! We renewed acquaintance with our friends, the Wagstaff's and the Smith's, and made new friends with those at Fellowship Baptist near Kingston, NS. Our cottage on the Bay of Fundy had added benefits right from God's hands- breath-taking sunsets and the sound of the ocean waves as we drifted off to sleep. Our afternoon tracking 2 humpback whales through the fog was a definite highlight, thanks to Captain Timmy! Another afternoon we spent an enjoyable time wandering around the Hopewell Rocks marvelling at the rock formations. We're grateful for an opportunity to do things out of the ordinary, but it's always good to be at home on Healey Lake, especially when the temperature soars and the refreshing water calls us for a swim... around 4:00 p.m. each day ☺ On returning home, we've enjoyed having family from Alberta. This week our daughter's family is here and we're hearing much about their mission trip to Portugal. David is out on Puget Sound, WA visiting Aleece, and our daughter, Teresa, has surprised us with news of a new baby early next year—grandchild #5. Now that August has arrived, I must think about the new school year and so planning is underway. We anticipate a very busy fall, especially in October and November. Thank you for your continued interest; it is always great to get notes, cards, and news from our supporting churches and families.

## **Air Miles Assistance - Cooper Air Miles No. 8006 178 1930**

**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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