



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

## Ministry Update...

This newsletter is coming to you from Ho, Ghana in West Africa. August was "back to work" month with continuation of course writing and weekend ministries. It was a blessing to re-visit a couple of churches that we report to each year and see how God has blessed these ministries. The churches in Africa are as excited about people getting saved in Canada as Canadian churches are about the blessings in Africa. August's activities included attending a curriculum writers' seminar in Harrisburg, PA. The time spent was intense with labour but very profitable. Although the course content will not change, the methodology presented should afford an even more understandable and practical teaching of course material. I am looking forward to applying what we learned to curriculum writing from now on. The methodology will double the time in preparation until mastered but the end results are anticipated to be well worth the additional efforts. Please pray for God's wisdom as I (Earl) apply the new methodology.

We received some inquiries regarding the apparent discrepancy in our support level between last month's newsletter and the letter sent to our regular supporters. Let me explain. The newsletter was prepared on the basis of our reported support level (from head office) in July. However, the additional letter was prepared after the annual "recalculation" of support level which takes place in August. The letter which reported our support needs at \$470 per month is the accurate figure at present. Although we have had some churches/individuals take on or increase support, others have discontinued support. Realizing that circumstances do change, causing the necessity to reprioritize financial commitments, this situation arises with missionaries from time to time. We praise God and personally thank all who have contributed to our support regardless of changed priorities and we continue to trust God to meet the need.

I write from Africa having all the visas in place for the trip from Ghana to Togo to Cameroon. Thank you for your prayers regarding these arrangements. I am waiting confirmation of the flight from Lome, Togo to Douala, Cameroon for September 24. Please pray that I will get confirmation and that the flight will leave when scheduled (African airlines are notorious for cancelling flights on short notice! Pastor Samuel from Cameroon wrote:

*Dear Brother Dr. Cooper,*

*I have just sent you a reply for your concern about the teaching in Cameroon... You will have just to teach on Satanology, Angelology and Demonology for two weeks. You need to bring 40 class manuals for the students...I hope you have received your visa for Cameroon. We are eagerly waiting for you hoping that you are doing well now.*

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Samuel BOUM*

Please pray for a blessed time of teaching in Ghana and Cameroon.

## Here is a Word in Season from Earl

It was Sir Walter Raleigh who wrote: "I wish I loved the Human Race; I wish I loved its silly face; I wish I liked the way it walks; I wish I liked the way it talks; And when I'm introduced to one I wish I thought WHAT JOLLY FUN! Much of humanity is very unlovable. God sees the inner being of every person and declares "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Nevertheless, God sees beyond this ugly heart of sin and selfishness to the need. God's Word declares: "God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). To accept Christ as Savior is to accept the love of God, and a new capacity to love humanity.

Roger Thompson, in Leadership Magazine, made this observation: "Ever feel overwhelmed by the Bible's command to love unconditionally? When people ask me, "How can I ever start to love everyone like I should?" I give the same answer I give those who ask how they can start jogging: Start slow, and then get slower! For the first week, the goal is "just to keep moving." Too many people buy new shoes and a fancy running suit and sprint out the door, eagerly chugging as hard as they can for about three blocks. Then their stomachs begin to ache, their muscles cramp, and their lungs burn. They wind up hitchhiking home exhausted, and gasp, "I will never do that again." That's called anaerobic (without oxygen) running. It's caused by a body using up more oxygen than it

takes in. Many people try to run that way, and many people try to love that way. They love with great fervour and self-sacrifice, giving 100 percent but without the resources to continue for a lifetime. Down the road they find themselves in pain, gasping and cramped, saying, "I will never do that again." Love, like running, must be aerobic. Our output must be matched by our intake. Running requires oxygen. An enduring love requires God's word, his consolation, his presence. As we love aerobically, we'll build up our capacity to do more and more. And pretty soon we won't be huffing and puffing for half a mile; we'll be running marathons."

The key to loving people is to love God. In loving God, we are drawn close to Him and gain the perspective of His love toward the world. It was Christ who could say, while hanging from Calvary's cross "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." It was Christ's love in Stephen that prompted him to lay at the hands of his own murderers "Forgive them." It is Christ's love in the believer that wins the marathons by the "oxygen" of His grace, and that oxygen never runs out!

Friend, like Sir Walter Raleigh, are you struggling with loving cruel and crude humanity. Start with Christ's love for you, and get a second breath for the race.

### 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. September includes a first-time trip to Cameroon.
2. For travel safety –for summer ministry.
3. For wisdom as Earl works 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 \$470/month which, with the additional travel expenses, will drop our ABWE account behind approximately \$3000 each year.
5. For the winter trip to West Africa with both Earl & David going to team-teach. Dave needs his yellow fever inoculation and a visa for Ghana. Who is more excited—Earl or Dave?

### Present Itinerary for 2007:

Sept. 6 – Oct 8: West Africa.

Oct. 14: Marathon Baptist Church, Marathon, ON

Oct 18: Pinegrove Baptist JOY Fellowship, Bracebridge, ON.

Oct. 21: Victory Fellowship Baptist Church, Hanover, ON

Oct 28: Alta Vista Baptist Church, Ottawa, ON

Nov. 4: Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia, ON

Nov. 5–8: Fellowship Baptist Convention, Hamilton.

Nov. 11: Central Baptist Church, Brantford, ON

Nov. 17 &18: First Baptist Church Mission Conference, Waterloo, ON

Nov. 25: Fenelon Falls Baptist Church, Fenelon Falls, ON

Dec. 27 – Feb 12 2008: West Africa

**Kathi's Notes...** Ahhh...September has arrived with its routines and schedules! After a summer of travelling and visiting, I'm happy to say good-bye to company and be back at school. This year I have 7 wonderful students in my class; it's going to be a great year! While Earl is in Africa, I do a lot of planning and prep for school. I know that when he returns, we will be on the road for several weekends and I won't have as much time for school. Now that fall is approaching, I'm enjoying the peace and quiet of Healey Lake, watching as the leaves slowly change colour. Hey!!! I just glanced outside and saw a blue heron flying across our cove with a fish dangling from its claws. Sorry, Earl, it looked like one of your trophy large-mouth bass! I am so thankful for the home the Lord has given to us to enjoy; it's a great retreat and I only need to look out the window to see the beauty of God's handiwork. Psalm 104:24 "O Lord, how innumerable are Thy works; in wisdom Thou hast made them all! The earth is full of Thy well-made creations." (Berkeley version)

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

**Thanks to air miles assistance we have traded for grocery vouchers. For those who have passed on your earned air miles to us, we thank you. You can help our monthly 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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