



***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 2008**

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

In three weeks I leave for Africa. My bags are not packed, I'm not ready to go, and it's still snowing occasionally in Muskoka! However, manuals for 3 of the 4 courses are ready to be run off and I just ordered enough paper for the nearly 2000 copies (individual pages) that will be needed to produce these manuals and a study guide. My suitcase is going to be a bit heavier than normal because this pre-course study guide is over 100 pages long!

In the meantime, the ice has melted off the lake, the grass is starting to show some green, and, along with final touches on travel preparation (food purchases, taxi arrangements in Africa, etc.), we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of David and his fiancé from Pensacola on May 8 and a weekend with all the kids and grandkids before I leave. It will be great to enjoy the family get together.

This month has truly whizzed by – but with blessings: three couples expressed genuine interest in pursuing missions as God spoke to them through our mission 2008 presentation, a church in Southern Ontario committed to ½ of our support deficit, and the trip to Quebec secured great library and curriculum resources for West African French-language countries. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We could not carry on this ministry without God's provision through you.

### **Here is a Word in Season from Earl (see our website for daily devotionals)**

In his message entitled "The inadequacy of instant Christianity" A.W. Tozer wrote: "By "instant Christianity" I mean the kind... which is born of the notion that we may discharge our total obligation to our own souls by one act of faith, or at most two, and be relieved thereafter of all anxiety about our spiritual condition and that there is no reason to seek to be saints in character." In a society used to instant information, instant food and even instant banking, instant Christianity becomes the pursuit of many. Because salvation is a free gift from God by faith in Christ's death for man's sin, burial and resurrection, "instant Christianity" even sounds appropriate. After all, the thief on the cross beside Christ was granted salvation upon His own expression of faith.

A closer examination of Scripture would reveal that "instant Christianity" overlooks a vital element of true, saving faith – repentance. "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (Acts 3:19). It was only after a period of mocking Jesus along with the other criminal, that the thief had a change of heart. Perhaps as he viewed Jesus agonizing death for sin, perhaps as he heard Jesus words of comfort and forgiveness to others, perhaps simply because he knew that Jesus was condemned unjustly, whatever God used to move him, the thief had a genuine change of heart. As his life was about to expire, his attention was drawn to Jesus, and with remorse for his own life and faith in Christ he cried: "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

David said: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." (Psalm 51:17). Vance Havner wrote: "God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume--it is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever." The faith that takes salvation's gift is rooted in the soil of a broken heart before God. Jesus reminded his disciples that it is the "poor in spirit" who find the kingdom of God. Of his ministry Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

There is no substitute for a broken, repentant heart. Out of it the cry of faith is born, in it the seed of new life is sown, from it the fruit of the spirit is raised and a new man is created in the image of Christ. Friend, don't seek instant Christianity, seek a broken heart, this is the workplace of God.

## **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 during summer ministry at in Africa and Canada.
3. For wisdom as Earl works with a team to put together a curriculum for the newly established Baptist Theological Education in Africa (BTEA) Schools 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 \$175 month. We praise God that some supporting churches have increased support for us.
5. For ministry opportunities in Canada and U.S. as we continue filling our 2008 schedule.

## **Present Itinerary for April - June:**

May 18: Pinegrove Baptist Church, Bracebridge, ON

May 25-June 22: West Africa teaching tour in Ghana & Togo

July 21-25: Core Ministry Institute – Harrisburg, PA

July 27: Lyndock Baptist Church. Eganville, ON.

Aug 10: Emmanuel Bible Church, Simcoe, ON

Aug 21-25: Gig Harbor, WA for David & Aleece's wedding on August 24.

**Kathi's Notes...** We've spent many happy times in April with our family. What a blessing it was to take part in Minne's ordination council and his ordination service! Also, we're pleased that Minne & Michele have been approved by the Canadian ABWE board and will attend Candidate Seminars this July in Harrisburg, PA. We'll have the privilege of caring for Drew & Caleb during those weeks. Here at home, little Kai colours our porch steps and railing with bright chalk pictures each time he visits. Izaac has learned to go down the slide and climb back up after a jolting bounce onto the ground. Baby Nathan continues to grow fat and happy. We are all looking forward to having Dave & Aleece here next week following Aleece's graduation. It's a blessing to hear that they have been accepted for married student housing at PCC for next year and that Dave has been awarded a scholarship. I have begun a study called "The Way to Joy" with a young mother from our church. Although the study is a requirement for the July CORE course in Harrisburg, it will allow me to get to know someone at Riverside Baptist in a closer way. Pray for Danielle and I as we search the Scriptures together. They say that 'April showers bring May flowers', and I'm ever so anxious to get busy in the gardens. Spring must be coming—I've heard the call of the loons on the lake and the peepers' singing through the darkness, but I do wish it would stop snowing!!

## **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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