



***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 2008**

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

This letter comes early because I leave for Africa on Saturday and I found out that email is going to be hard to come by this trip. The normal missionary sources for email are not available this trip, as a result I am very much "on my own" in Ghana and Togo this trip. Nevertheless, I am looking forward to teaching the 2 weeks of classes in Ghana – Bibliology (doctrine of the Bible) and Theology Proper (doctrine of God the Father) at Mathetes Bible College in Ho, Leadership in the Church at the Ho Bible Institute. Then I travel to Togo to teach Christology (doctrine of Christ) week 3 and Anthropology, Hamartiology, and Soteriology (Doctrines of man, sin and salvation) week 4. I have also been asked to complete a seminar on "Spiritual Health" from Proverbs for the Pastors in Togo. The manuals (a large stack of them) are ready to go! Pray that I do not exceed the flight weight restrictions! A four week turn-around is my shortest trip yet; however, with the busy schedule of course preparation and home-front travel this year, I am grateful.

May was an exciting month. I was informed that the Ghana team approved a proposal of mine to encourage Canadian churches to partner with African churches. I am excited about the possibilities of this as it will allow our churches, burdened with the financial challenges of African churches, to assist in the manner exemplified by the early churches of Acts. I believe this will be a source of great blessings for both Canadian and African churches.

We were also excited about David and Aleece coming home to meet some of our family as they prepare for their August wedding in Washington state. David and I shared our January team teaching tour at Pinegrove Baptist. This was also a blessing as we shared on the May long weekend and I was able to see some folks – up to open their cottages – that I had not seen in five years.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. Please continue to pray for God's blessing on the classes and on my family in my absence.

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

The great disharmony among "Christian" denominations can, for the most part, be historically traced to the parting of the ways on one major doctrine; the doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture. The Bible states: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine for reproof for correction for instruction and righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). The word "inspiration" here, literally means "God-breathed" and defines a final written product that is the very Word of God, produced by the leading of the Holy Spirit upon godly believers, with the result of an infallible body of written documents from beginning to end. Jesus Himself attested to this in stating: "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Matt. 5:18). This is the position of fundamental Christianity and the point of departure of many denominations.

Kirsop Lake, New Testament professor at the University of Chicago stated: " It is a mistake often made by educated persons who happen to have but little knowledge of historical theology, to suppose that fundamentalism is a new and strange form of thought. It is nothing of the kind; it is the partial and uneducated survival of a theology which was once universally held by all Christians. How many were there, for instance, in Christian churches in the 18th century who doubted the infallible inspiration of all Scripture? A few perhaps, but very few. "

George D. Barry traces the historical departure from the doctrine of inspiration: "The fact that for fifteen centuries no attempt was made to formulate a definition of the doctrine of inspiration of the Bible, testifies to the universal belief of the Church that the Scriptures were the handiwork of the Holy Spirit...It was, to our modern judgement, a mechanical and erroneous view of inspiration that was accepted and taught by the Church of the first centuries.."

Scripture states: "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb 4:12). The greatest evidence that the Bible is The Word of God, is its power to change lives. John Meldau states: "Marcus Aurelius, Confucius and other philosophers wrote some good moral and ethical maxims, but no one is won to a life of holiness by reading them. They present an ideal, but lack the

vital power that the Bible alone has to lift the soul to that ideal. The Bible accomplishes this by leading us to direct contact with God, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." The Bible's answer to the needs of man is spiritual regeneration, which takes place when an individual acknowledges personal sin and expresses faith in the sacrifice of Christ for that sin. This yields new life and fellowship with the living God – the power of change.

### **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:**

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.

Sept. 13-14: Fellowship Baptist Church, Kingston, N.S.

Sept. 18-19: New Brunswick Bible Institute, Hartland, N.B. (tentative)

Sept. 21: Baptist Church, St. Stephens, N.B.

**Kathi's Notes...** The month of May has been filled with many enjoyable times for our family. We heard the banns of marriage read for Dave & Aleece and then on Victoria weekend had a great party for them. It was so good to see many friends and family that Saturday. Must have been a Cooper wedding celebration as it rained and rained and rained! My school schedule has been almost hectic with a Fine Arts Festival, GrandFriends Day, Open House, an association meeting, and preparation for the spring musical that will be presented on May 29. In the midst of this, I am gathering information so I can write the final report cards. Just 3 more weeks left to teach—did you hear the sigh of relief? With Earl away, there will be no weekend travelling and I'll be able to enjoy worship back at Riverside Baptist Church. Time to get my stack of summer reading ready, I think!

### **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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