



Son-rise in Africa Newsletter
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER
(for Newsletter Archives go to <http://www.discipleshipministries.ca/>)
June - July 2008

Ministry Update...

June was a great time to be away to Africa. I missed the bulk of the black flies and because it was the beginning of the rainy season there, the weather was not too hot (around 25 degrees during the day and down to 20 at night with the rain). While in Africa in June I taught 2 courses in Ghana, 2 courses in Togo, arranged a Partnering Project between Riverside Baptist, Huntsville ON and Hasu Baptist, Helekpe, Ghana, as well as conducted a 1-day pastor seminar in Kpalime for 20 or so men. The trip was very rewarding and somewhat of a milestone as all the students in the Togo Pastoral Institute are graduating and my only regular pastoral student left in Mathetes Bible College, Ghana is also graduating. This is now my sixth year of teaching tours in West Africa and with the above graduations and plans for the new school underway, (Baptist Academy of Theology in Africa), the schools that I have been teaching at are now closed and this aspect of my ministry in West Africa complete. With administration details still being worked out for the new school, I presently face a lull in the theological education in West Africa. While continuing to write curriculum for West Africa, this lull will afford me a unique opportunity for the next year to assist other fields and get a better feel for ABWE Canada's role in Theological Education around the world. I teach again in Cameroon in October; Dave Smith has asked me to join him in Jamaica in February; I have been encouraged to travel to the schools in South Africa, India, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Philippines. There seems to be no shortage of schools looking for help!

Kathi and I have set aside a couple of weeks in July to have a holiday and enjoy our grandchildren who are staying with us while our daughter and son-in-law, Michele & Minne Bouma, are at the ABWE candidate seminars in Harrisburg. Please pray for the Lord's clear leading as to where He desires me to help for this short lull. Please pray for Minne and Michele that they may know the Lord's clear leading as they commence pre-field missionary ministry with ABWE Canada. Thank you for your interest and prayers.

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

An agnostic is someone who hasn't made their mind up about God, an atheist affirms that there is no God. The Bible says the heavens declare the glory of God and the earth shows His handiwork. Can anyone with a truly honest heart look through a microscope at the intricacies of our micro world or look through a telescope at the uniqueness of our mega universe and say there is no designer?

Whenever I come across someone who is unsure of the existence of God I'm inclined to ask, "Have you ever experienced a time when your mind and heart were prompted to acknowledge the presence of God? Has there ever been a time when in the midst of a lightning storm and the demonstration of limitless power, you were prompted to acknowledge God? Have you ever stood, overlooking a scene of nature beautiful enough to take your breath away, and been pressed to acknowledge the artist-Creator?"

Scripture states that God sends Angels as ministering spirits to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). To the sceptic I'm inclined to ask: "Has there ever been a time in which your destruction seemed imminent, when you sensed a supernatural and providing protection?"

George Macdonald said: "God hides nothing. His very work from the beginning is revelation—a casting aside of veil after veil, a showing unto men of truth after truth. On and on from fact divine he advances, until at length in his Son Jesus he unveils his very face." The evidence of God is everywhere to be found. He does exist, and the honest heart will acknowledge Him. Yet, to know that He exists and fail to know Him is agony to the soul. Knowing Him personally begins with accepting His Son Jesus Christ as our Saviour-access. Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

During World War II the famous American pilot, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, was flying on a special mission to the Pacific Islands. The plane crashed, and Rickenbacker and his crew were lost at sea for twenty-one days. Rickenbacker wrote of that experience: "In the beginning many of the men were atheists or agnostics, but at the end of the terrible ordeal each, in his own way, discovered God. Each man found God in the vast, empty loneliness of the ocean. Each man found salvation and strength in prayer, and a community of feeling developed which created a liveliness of human fellowship and worship, and a sense of gentle

peace.” Although it may come to a life or death situation to turn a heart toward God, it need not. He evidences His existence everywhere we look. Friend, have you found the living God? If you are His child, rejoice in Him!

Please pray with us...

1. For effective teaching where God leads while BATA is organized 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.
3. For wisdom as Earl works with a team to put together a curriculum for the newly established Baptist Theological Education in Africa (BATA) 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 and other churches have taken on our support.**
5. For ministry opportunities in Canada and U.S. as we continue filling our 2008 - 2009 schedule.

Present Itinerary:

July 9 & 16: Fresh Encounter, Riverside Baptist, Huntsville, ON
July 13: Pinegrove Fellowship Baptist Church, Bracebridge, ON
July 21-25: Core Ministry Institute – Harrisburg, PA
July 27: Lyndock Baptist Church, Eganville, ON
Aug 10: Courtland Bible Fellowship, Courtland, 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, NS
Sept. 18-19: New Brunswick Bible Institute, Hartland, NB (tentative)
Sept. 21: Baptist Church, St. Stephens, NB
Oct. 10-27: Cameroon pastoral institute

Kathi’s Notes... I’ve made my way through 8 books so far in my summer reading quest. Lots of time left for more adventures from the library. Reading time has not been limited by having our 2 oldest grandsons here. We are reading through a novel together at bedtime—‘just one more chapter, please, Gammy’ makes me smile and of course, we read at least one more. If you boated past our place, you might think we have a summer water theme park. Dave has supplied us with a water trampoline, a sailboat, and a Sea-Doo Paradise Mountain along with canoes, thanks to the discards from the Muskoka Lakes. Laughter and shouts of glee are often heard from the waterfront—one of the joys of living in Muskoka in the summer. I anticipate spending lots of hours reading on the dock while I watch the boys at play. Hope you are enjoying your summer hours and finding pleasure in this wonderful season.

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.

Dr. & Mrs. Earl Cooper, 1248 Healey Lake Rd., Bracebridge, ON. P1L 1X3
Phone: 705-645-6371 Email: ekcooper@sympatico.ca Website: DiscipleshipMinistries.ca
ABWE CANADA, 980 Adelaide Street South, Suite 34, London, ON. N6E 1R3