



***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 2008**

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

What can be said about August except: "Where did it go?" Although we continued to work on curriculum writing for the West Africa school, half of the month was spent travelling to Washington state for our son David's wedding, then Earl took a trip to Pensacola to deliver furniture etc. to David and Aleece's school apartment. Prior to these excursions, we enjoyed a weekend in southern Ontario bringing ministry updates and sharing the Lord's work in Africa at churches in Courtland and Simcoe.

It is wonderful to see how the Lord moves the hearts of God's people through the circumstances of our brothers and sisters in West Africa. Whether we share in a general way of God's deliverance of people from the darkness of African traditional spiritism, or share specifically of the testimony of African men and women who undergo great sacrifice and hardship to follow Christ, the Lord graciously enables His Canadian family to count our own blessings while upholding the African church up in prayer.

Thank you for your prayers concerning my teaching schedule during the 2009 lull in West Africa. It appears that I will be teaching in Jamaica in February (oh, the tough life of a missionary!!), and Trinidad and the Ukraine sometime later in the year. There is no shortage of teaching ministry and I am looking forward to seeing what the Lord is doing on other fields where our fellow ABWE Canada personnel are labouring.

### **Please Remember...**

...Pastor George Dzansi of Hasu Baptist Church, Helekepe, Ghana. Pastor George just graduated from Mathetes Baptist Bible College. His wife (and major source of income through cooking) died in January. I met with him in June to find that he continues to trust in the Lord for strength and for his daily needs. His church was the first to be approved for the ABWE Canada 'Church Partnering Project'. Hasu Baptist now receives monthly financial assistance on a 5 year decreasing schedule from a Canadian church while they learn to take full responsibility for pastoral care. George is seen here being presented with a motorcycle donated by a U.S. church. Now he has transportation and monthly income – PTL! Please pray for the Lord to bless Pastor George as he carries out his pastoral ministry, and for Hasu Baptist to learn to give first to the Lord and live by faith.



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

It was the fog-shrouded morning of July 4, 1952 when Florence Chadwick waded into the water off Catalina Island with every intention of swimming the channel to the California coast. Having previously become the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions, all seemed routine. After fifteen hours of strenuous labour in frigid, shark infested waters, Florence asked to be taken out of the water. Her trainer tried to encourage her to continue believing they were very close to success even though the fog was too thick to see any distance ahead. Florence refused to go on.

Scripture says: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick" (Proverbs 13:12 NIV). Hope delayed or darkened from view only brings defeat, this is certainly true in the life of a Christian. For this reason Peter challenges the believer to avoid that which displaces hope; 1 Peter 1:13 states: "gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Peter 1:13).

In the day that Peter wrote, ankle length items of clothing (tunics and mantles) were the norm. When work in the fields or market, or taking a journey, was undertaken, in order to be unimpeded in movement the hem of these items were drawn between the legs and tucked into the belt (girdle). The word used to describe this practice was "αναζώννυμι (anazonnumi)", meaning "gird up". This is the very word Peter uses in this passage to help the believer understand the importance of keeping the mind unimpeded.

Hope can be clouded by allowing the mind to drift. Mental drifting displaces hope by leaving loose ends to trip us; the loose ends of worry and indecision. Even mental laziness is a loose end that takes away hope. When the mind settles with being perpetually spoon fed or entertained by the thoughts and values of

others, rather than thinking through and discovering truth personally, hope remains unplanted in the mind and heart.

God desires His own children to develop the discipline of good mental focus. For this reason, He describes personal enrichment through study of scripture as a labour: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV). Florence Chadwick quit within one half mile of successfully completing her goal. She lost hope because she could not see the goal, hidden by fog. A similar fog can overtake the Christian who will not practice good mental focus, who will not live daily in the light of the promises of God; His care, His comfort, His coming.

There is great reward for the believer who, by avoiding mental drifting, refuses to let hope become clouded: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." (Proverbs 13:12 NIV)

### **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 fall ministry.
3. For preparation of the studies for Jamaica, Trinidad and Ukraine.
4. For our support deficit of approximately \$150 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:**

Sept. 13-14: Fellowship Baptist Church, Kingston, NS

Sept. 17: Devon Park Fellowship Baptist Church, Fredericton, N.B.

Sept. 18-19: New Brunswick Bible Institute, Hartland, NB

Sept. 21: Baptist Church, St. Stephens, NB

Oct. 10-27: Cameroon pastoral institute

**Kathi's Notes...** The whole summer passed in a blur of activity for me. I can hardly believe I've already taught a week of school! Highlights for me were the times spent with family, beginning with 3 weeks with Drew & Caleb while Michele & Minne were at ABWE Candidate Seminars in Harrisburg, PA. They have been appointed to serve in Portugal where they will be involved with Christian Education and church planting. Teresa & Adam have kept right on improving their property—they now have a 'fort' down in the bush where the boys love to have sleep-overs. Teresa's gardens are yielding some veggies that we are using to make preserves. The BIG EVENT of the summer was Dave & Aleece's wedding near Gig Harbor, WA on Aug. 24. True to a Cooper wedding, it rained on the day! But it was such a fun time that nobody seemed to notice. The Power family were wonderful hosts, treating us to freshly caught BBQ'd salmon and shrimp, early morning fishing trips, a 6-hour hike on Mt. Townsend where the mountaintop view was spectacular (5 mountain ranges and Victoria, BC), and boat rides and water skiing on the sound. Looking out from the deck of our cottage on the Key Peninsula, we could clearly see Mt. Rainier. If you are interested in seeing some wedding photos, go to [www.kwhall.blogspot.com](http://www.kwhall.blogspot.com), the photographer's site, and scroll down to "POWER". She got some fabulous shots. I smile when I think of our entourage at the airports trailing behind an airport personal escort--Michele on crutches or in a wheelchair (she's recovering nicely from her knee surgery), Teresa with baby Nate in a snuggly, Earl's mom chugging along, Earl & I managing the carry-ons and baby carseat. Quite the family!

### **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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