



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

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

In just one week I will be flying to Cameroon for my final teaching tour of 2008. The east coast trip in September was very enjoyable, albeit rather busy with 13 speaking engagements in 10 days. The Stewardship Seminars in Fellowship Baptist church, Kingston, N.S. were well received and the fellowship with Pastor Jason Koustaal and his family was an added blessing (Jason and son and I even got to go fishing! for a morning). Devon Park Baptist Church in Fredericton welcomed me for their prayer meeting and New Brunswick Bible Institute afforded me opportunity to share "Dark Africa I & II" in two chapels as well as present 2 mission seminars in classes. The students were attentive and very enthusiastic. Pray that God will call some of these students to the mission fields around the world. Perhaps my greatest blessings came with the 4 days spent with Brent and Carol Wagstaff. Brent and I were elders together at the Pinegrove Baptist church in Bracebridge, Ontario. Our time was spent in good fellowship, touring St. Stephen and enjoying the beauty of the east coast. With all my fishing experience from Nova Scotia :, I even introduced Brent to mackerel fishing in Maine. Our mission weekend in St. Stephen went very well.

The extended travels this summer (from Washington state to Florida to Canada's east coast has put a strain on my curriculum preparation; therefore, I am looking forward to a bit of time home after the Cameroon trip to catch up. Thank you for your continued prayer support. Please pray that the Cameroon trip will be blessed of God as I teach, speak at various churches and share at the Cameroon Bible Seminary during their commencement ceremonies.

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

The highway stretches out before you as an endless trail that your vehicle seems glued to. The rhythm of the engine falls into harmony with the strobe effect of the passing dashes of the centre line. The heat waves rise up from the hardtop giving the allusion of a gentle rolling sea, and your mind in response drifts off quietly to days gone by. Your eyelids droop in surrender to the pleasantness of the coming dream when suddenly, you awaken to the shock of your tires hitting the soft shoulder- if you're fortunate, if not, your vehicle strikes a rock and you never wake up.

When driving, physical drowsiness is a danger that must be recognized and avoided; its consequences are devastating. This is true as well of spiritual drowsiness. The Epistle of Peter states, "Wherefore 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 literal sense, the word "nepho" ('sober' in English), meant to be absent of the influence of alcohol, and therefore, a parallel could be drawn to the dangers of drinking and driving as well. However, Peter is using sobriety in the figurative sense of avoiding the spiritual drowsiness that comes not so much by choice as by complacency. He refers, with this term, not of being spiritually lured but of becoming spiritually lulled. The thought is of the sentinel who falls asleep, not of the sentinel who abandons his post. Yet the end result is the same, personal shame and danger to self and company.

Too many Christians have become spiritually drowsy, and are oblivious to the immanent danger to themselves and their families. There has been a quiet slip from true devotion to simple motion. Although there may be a lot of religious activity, when entrance is made into the sacred precincts of the heart's personal religion, all enthusiasm is lost.

This state of drowsiness is so dangerous that the risen Lord made specific reference to it: "These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:14-16 NIV).

A.W. Tozer repeats the call to spiritual sobriety in these words: "If He (Jesus Christ) is who and what the Christian message declares Him to be, then the thought of Him should be the most exciting, the most stimulating, to enter the human mind." In reference to Christ' warning of Revelation 3, Tozer suggests: "The low level of moral enthusiasm among us may have significance far deeper than we are willing to believe."

Be sober in all its senses, drowsiness can lead to disaster!

### **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 Earl's Cameroon trip.
3. For preparation of the studies for Jamaica, Trinidad and Romania tentatively scheduled for 2009.
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 2009 schedule.

### **Present Itinerary:**

Oct. 10-27: Cameroon pastoral institute

Nov. 2: First Baptist Church, Timmins, ON.

Nov. 23: Otterville Baptist, Otterville, ON.

Nov. 23: First Baptist, Waterloo, ON.

### **Kathi's Notes...**

With Earl being away, much of my time this past month has been spent settling in at school, getting acquainted with my class, establishing routines. This year during assemblies, we are learning the names of God. I presented two lessons on Jehovah Jireh, God is our Provider; the first was the story of Abraham and Isaac, the second was a salvation message. Some students have no background in church and they know little about the Bible. What an opportunity to share the goodness of God with them! It is my prayer that students will find God to be their Provider, as He has been for me. We are having an awesome start to school with a terrific group of students—no visits to the principal's office in September. God is answering prayers! My KinderKids are such a lovable little bunch to teach. Our theme for October is "God's Gift of Food", so we are having adventures tasting new food in the Kindergarten Café. Speaking of food, I also was busy doing up preserves. It is so satisfying to see the shelves fill up with pickles, peaches, salsa, elderberry jelly, and pickled beets. My next food project is to make squash soup for the freezer. Mmmm—can hardly wait for winter!! (That was a joke!)

### **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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