



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

Ministry Update...

October was spent in preparing for, and travelling to Cameroon to teach at the Cameroon Pastoral Training School. This email sent to the family while in Cameroon will give you an idea of how the trip went: "It's been an interesting week with no Internet, water only from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. and sometimes no electricity. I got tired of "bucket baths" so on Monday morning I got up at 4:45 to have a shower - it felt soooo good. Wednesday the water was restored to normal. My Daniel/Revelation class is going very well. It turns out that these guys are good students with great educational backgrounds - an international civil engineer (he has traveled to England, Spain, France and even Israel - speaks 4 or 5 languages and has retired to be a pastor in the church that I preached at on Sunday) , a school principal, 4 policemen, an ex-military man, law students, etc. So they have been eager to understand what is a difficult couple of books for them. My sermon on Sunday went very well, albeit long because it was translated into 3 languages while I spoke (see picture). The weather continues to be rainy and cool (well, high 70's and low 80's - cool for Africa). There have been some torrential rains that lasted for 30 minutes or so. The roads all flood and mud runs down the streets and into every nook and cranny. At times it looks like the buildings have been built in a lake! But after an hour all is back to its normal wet, mud-covered green landscape and worn buildings (mostly W.W.II-built buildings). I am staying with David and Karen Hamrick (ABWE missionaries) in a nice apartment, as good as any you will find in Canada - it's clean, modern, and was built by its owner to catch the breeze, so there is always fresh air flowing through the apartment which makes it nice for sleeping at night - quite comfortable during this rainy season. I am scheduled to finish classes on Friday night, speak at the first graduation ceremonies of the school on Saturday at 11 a.m., then I head to the airport for an 8.5 hour flight to Paris, where I have a 5 hour wait for my 8.5 hour flight to Toronto. Unfortunately I arrive in Paris at 5:15 a.m. which is too early to go and see anything - no time to climb the Eiffel Tower."



Thank you for your continued prayers - despite some inconveniences, the Cameroon trip was highly successful. I have been asked to return in June 2009 to teach, as well as present stewardship seminars throughout the country.

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

Without doubt, one of the negative by-products of our socially conscientious society is a growing "hand-out" mentality. By this I mean that a growing number of people actually believe that society owes them. The great sacrifices of our forefathers to bring freedom and comfort to our land has created not gratitude but graft. Shared costs for mutual privilege have led to demands for free education, free medication, and free accommodation. The needy have been overrun by the greedy. This "give me" approach to life has even entered into the church.

Charles Colson writes: "The roots of the church's identity crisis are found in the consumer mentality so pervasive in our culture... Ask people what they look for in a church and the number one response is "fellowship"... Spiritual consumers are interested not in what the church stands for but in the fulfilment it can deliver."

How far from Christ's call this is! "Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24 NIV) Believers can be so far removed from this heartbeat of Christ that understanding of personal denial and a cross escapes them. On January 8, 1956, Jim Elliot and four other missionaries were killed by the Auca natives that they had sought to bring the message of Christ to. Perhaps the words of Elisabeth Elliot regarding her martyred husband will shed some light on denial and a cross: "When I was a student at Wheaton, I asked Jim to autograph my yearbook. He wrote: "The dust of words would smother me- II Timothy 2:4." The text cited says, "No man that goes to war entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

His death was the result of simple obedience to his Captain. Many thousands of men have died in obedience to their captains. The men at Gettysburg were among them. Abraham Lincoln's great words, spoken on that battlefield, apply as well to other soldiers whose obedience to commands is not the less to be imitated: "We cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, ... who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. ...It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that ... we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

Lincoln and those who were present at that ceremony viewed once again the ground whereon the men struggled -- common green fields of Pennsylvania, but fraught with new significance. As I read again Jim's own words, put down in battered notebooks during the common routine of life, they become, for me, fraught with new meaning. To them I can add nothing: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." (1949)

God seeks committed Christians not consumer Christians!

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. ***With the Canadian dollar dropping and flight costs increasing, we anticipate a review of our support will result in a necessary increase for 2009. Please pray that the Lord will meet the need.***
5. For ministry opportunities in Canada and U.S. as we continue filling our 2009 schedule.

Present Itinerary:

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

Nov. 23: Otterville Baptist, Otterville, ON.

Nov. 23: First Baptist, Waterloo, ON.

Dec. 6-7: First Baptist Church, Cochrane, ON. (tentative)

Kathi's Notes...

Life slows down as winter approaches and it's a good time to reflect on the activity of recent weeks. The first snow has fallen and melted. I patted myself on the back, having made an early appointment to get the snow tires on the very day we got 6" of snow. ☺ We have been busy outside preparing for the time when the snow will stay for months. The rose bushes have been mulched and other plants have been cut back, the leaves have been cleared (several times already), the swimming platform is beached, the 'fleet' has been covered, the birdfeeders are full. Now if only I could get Earl to move on getting the Christmas lights up before the weather turns cold, I'd feel ready for winter. It is a nasty task if you wait until the end of November—guess how I know that! The newlyweds are busy and happy serving in a church in Elberta, Alabama. Dave recently wrote mid-term exams; Aleece has begun tutoring Spanish lessons. Today is Isaac's 2nd birthday, so I'll be sharing some yummy birthday cake with him this evening. Unfortunately, Earl will be in Timmins and will miss Teresa's great baking. We'll drop by their house on the way to pick up the rental car so Poppa can give a birthday hug. We have three family birthdays this month- Teresa and Minne will add another year to their age later. By the way, check out the recent issue of ABWE Message magazine to see Canada's new miss'y appointees, Minne & Michele. They begin their pre-field ministry with a presentation at their sending church this month.

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**