



Son-rise in Africa Newsletter

CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER

(for Newsletter Archives go to <http://www.discipleshipministries.ca/>)

February 2009

Ministry Update...

This has been an interesting month with new ministry experiences and great opportunities to share the ABWE Canada ministries. Earl travelled west to be involved in two Mission conferences, the first at Prairie Bible Institute and then to Edmonton for the Alberta Missions Fest where he shared the responsibilities of manning the mission display with Frank Roe, ABWE Canada's Director of Ministries for Western Canada. The key note speaker for both conferences was Bruce Olson. To hear of God's sovereign control of his life and ministry for the past 40 years was an enriching experience. (These messages can be downloaded at <http://www.prairie.edu/SpiritualFormation/Chapel/gcc.asp>).

Ministering with Frank Roe was also a delightful time. As Earl and Frank talked with students and career people of the needs and opportunities for short term and career missionaries around the world, the evident leading of God in lives was manifest. Please pray for those truly called of the Lord to take that step of faith and follow Him.

The month was rounded off with completion of another Baptist Academy of Theology in Africa college course including student manual with commentary, pre-course study guide, and outcome base instructors guide. Thank you for your continued encouragement and support in the labours undertaken to share mission needs and train pastors for God's vineyard.

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

Weakness is looked down upon today with such vigour that few would even admit any element of personal weakness. This was not the case with the apostle Paul. He was inflicted with an ailment which he believed to be a detriment to his ministry. Three times he pleaded with God to heal him, however God had another plan. The Lord chose to leave Paul with the struggle in order to privilege him with experiencing the sufficiency of God: "he (God) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV). Paul found a depth of strength in the GRACE of God, a resource worthy of consideration in these troubled days.

Like a rainbow with many colours, grace has a broad spectrum of meaning, each nuance rich with blessing. Grace is first that which affords joy or delight because of intrinsic beauty. The Lord said in essence "the beauty of My Person is sufficient for you." As the Lily of the Valley and The Bright and Morning Star, God's very beauty brings joy and strength to those who know Him.

Grace is loving kindness, good will, special care. Jesus demonstrated this in His continual care for the sick and the suffering as he reached out to touch the needy. Essentially, God said "My loving care is sufficient to you". All who have taken hold of eternal life through the loving sacrifice of Christ on the cross know the meaning of this love.

Grace is the ordering of circumstance to guarantee good to the benefactor. It is the special attention of God toward those He holds dear as "the apple of His eye". To Paul God said "My special favour toward you is sufficient". A quick review of Paul's escapes from ship wreck, peril, and evil plots evidence confirm his declaration: "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV) Those who follow the Lord realize that there are no coincidences. The hand of God moves to guarantee the believer's good and God's glory.

Grace is a gift, the bestowal of ability. God said "My enabling is sufficient for you". God graced Paul's life with the ability to complete his ministry. As well, grace is the expression of appreciation. God declared "My reward is sufficient for you". With Paul, every Christian should understand the sufficiency of the means of service - God's equipping, and motive for service - His reward.

Is it any wonder that, having experience the deep and abiding sufficiency of the GRACE of God, Paul declared with conviction and anticipation: "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me ... For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12 NIV). The GRACE of God affords strength to His people in direct proportion to their own weakness in order for God to receive all the Glory. Dear Christian friend, isn't it great to be weak?

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 & Kathi's continued travels in 2009.
3. For preparation of the studies for Cameroon, Trinidad and India scheduled for 2009.
4. For our monthly support deficit. **We praise God that he has supplied all our needs however, 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:

We are presently making contact with churches to complete our 2009 schedule. This is more difficult this year because Earl's "overseas" schedule is still not finalized.

Please pray for opportunities to share the ABWE Canada needs throughout Canada as these dates are finalized.

Courtland Bible Fellowship: Mar. 4 – 8
Riverside Baptist, Huntsville: Mar. 18, 22, 25
Bethel Baptist, Orillia: Mar. 28, 29 (Kathi)
Grace Baptist, Simcoe: Mar. 29 (Earl)
ABWE Canada Annual Meeting: April 4
Springfield Baptist: April 5
Fenelon Falls Baptist: May 3
Consultation for International Theological
Education, Harrisburg, PA: May 24 - May 27

Cameroon: Jun. 5-14
Riverside Baptist, Huntsville: June 28
Parry Sound Baptist: Aug. 9
Trinidad: Aug. 29 - Sept. 14
Calvary Baptist, Espanola: Sept. 26-27
Otterville Baptist: Nov. 1
Central Baptist, Brantford: Nov. 8
Bethel Baptist, Orillia: Nov. 15
India: Nov. 20 - Dec. 8

Kathi's Notes... February has been a rather routine month for me. I have joined in worship at Riverside Church several times. Phase 1 of the renovations has been completed. It is encouraging and uplifting to walk into the spacious new foyer to greet friends. It is evident that God has guided and blessed that project. The second term at school is over and that means that report cards are written. That job is finished (what clever children I teach!) and now I look forward to the March Break. I'm really excited that next weekend the entire family will be here. Michele & Minne and boys are coming for a few days and are bringing Dave & Aleece. They fly north for a short time and it will be great to all be together for awhile. Dave has been invited to speak at a church that is looking for a pastor. Pray for God's leading and for His will to be done in their lives, not Mom's. It would be wonderful to have them in Ontario, but it is more important that they serve in the church where God wants them. Another piece of exciting news is that Teresa is having a children's book published—Wow—what clever children I have! I am truly blessed and enriched.

Air Miles Assistance - Cooper Air Miles No. 8006 178 1930

A practical way of supporting our ministry travel costs is by using our Air Miles number at participating merchants. For those who have passed on your earned air miles to us, we thank you.

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