



Son-rise in Africa Newsletter
CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER
(for Newsletter Archives go to <http://www.discipleshipministries.ca/>)
April 2009

Ministry Update...

This month was a combined ministry and home catch-up month. Along with reporting at the ABWE annual meeting, sharing at Springfield Baptist and Pinegrove Baptist, presenting the ABWE ministry at the Word of Life Institute in Owen Sound and continuing to work on college courses, I was able to take advantage of some of the nice weather days and clean up the bush and yard after the winter. One of the blessings of this time of year is to watch the ice disappear off the lake. The open water always brings the fishing itch as well as the "get out and get to work in the bush" push. One day, when I find the time, I may even tap a few of our maple trees; however, for now it's a matter of just keeping the deadfall cleared and figuring out what to do with the wood that I cut up and stack.

Devotions always seem sweeter when spring and new life is in the air; it reminds me of our New Life in Christ that the Lord desires to keep fresh and vigorous for us to enjoy. Thank you for your continued prayers for our ministry. Please uphold us in prayer as the next two months are travel months, and very busy. I will have to say goodbye for now to the bush and the fish until July. Kathi will be busy finishing up school ministry and getting ready for summer.

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

The nursery rhyme "Old Mother Hubbard" may have originally been a criticism of government with "bare cupboards and nothing for the poor dogs of society", nevertheless, the rhyme also portrays the "empty cupboards" of human relationships within many families. In such situations parents are unable to pass on even the bare bones of relational development to their children. Is it any wonder that our society is fragmented and fractured at its most foundational point of human coexistence, of which the family is the primary training ground? It's time to look at our-shelves!

God, who is the architect of both the family and society, gives clear insight through scripture of what the "cupboards" of family relationships should hold. In Proverbs 20:7 the personal integrity of parents is presented as a source of meaningful inheritance: "The just [man] walketh in his integrity: his children [are] blessed after him."

"Integrity" here means to possess the quality of being sound, unimpaired, undivided. This suggests a life that is consistent in faith toward God and wholesome toward others, morally and ethically. To walk in integrity is to be undivided in devotion toward God and loyalty toward family, it is to be uncompromising in Godly character and conduct.

Job illustrates a life that held to integrity. In all his troubles and losses his vow was clear: "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." (Job 31:6). His heart was determined to always honour the Lord. The result was doubled blessings and Godly children: "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before... He had also seven sons and three daughters... And in all the land were no women found [so] fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." (Job 42)

J.C. Penny, the founder of the department store chain, attributes his success to the integrity that his father passed on to him. This was an integrity founded upon a commitment to Christ that cost J.C. jobs and promotions, but earned the respect of the business community and ultimately the success of his national chain of stores.

Although such integrity is modelled by parents, each person must choose that path for themselves. In the Proverbs text quoted, it is the just or righteous person who walks in integrity. Each person must come to Christ by faith in order to be forgiven and declared righteous: "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17). God then builds His integrity into the believer through His word: "I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalms 119:104-105 NIV). Do your children see Godly integrity as a part of your-shelf?

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. **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 ministering in 2009..

Present Itinerary:

Please pray for God's blessings as we complete our 2009 schedule.

Fenelon Falls Baptist: May 3

Travel to Florida for David's graduation, ordination, and pack up & return to Ontario: May 3-17

Consultation for International Theological Education, Harrisburg, PA: May 24 - May 27

Cameroon: June 5-14

Riverside Baptist, Huntsville: June 28

Trinidad: Aug. 29 - Sept. 14

Calvary Baptist, Espanola: Sept. 26-27

Parry Sound: Oct. 4

First Baptist, Cochrane: Oct. 18

Otterville Baptist: Nov. 1

Central Baptist, Brantford: Nov. 8

Bethel Baptist, Orillia: Nov. 15

India: Nov. 20 - Dec. 8

Kathi's Notes... As Earl mentioned, while he is doing the travelling, I will be busy through May and June finishing up my teaching year. I often say that this is my favourite time of the school year; the children have become quite independent and seem to be teaching themselves. Gone are the struggles to hold pencils and scissors properly, all the zippers have been conquered, we move from each activity to the next with minimal confusion, and lessons are learned with very little repetition. We all experience a sense of accomplishment and pride in the lessons of the year. I, too, love spring in Muskoka and its many signs of renewed life. Our classroom abounds with these signs of spring. Pussywillows and kites, raindrops and umbrellas, mothers and their babies are common themes. We have been watching our Kindergarten tulip garden very closely and soon will see colours galore. Wildlife is emerging after the long winter. We have seen wild turkeys, otters, a muskrat, and evidence of black bears; we hear the peepers in the marsh. Winter must be gone—the loons have been calling on the lake! It is a great time to be outdoors before those dreaded black flies arrive. While I am working on the computer just now, Earl is outside with our grandsons, Kai and Izaak, giving lessons on casting a fishing rod, directing the Tonka toys in the sand and having a pedal-boat ride to see Mr. Beaver's house. Hmmm, it's definitely not a day for sitting at a desk; I think I should go right out with a cup of tea and enjoy the sunshine! Come on, get your cup and join me!

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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