



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

Ministry Update...

The highlight of this month, besides seeing the snow disappear (although we still had occasional snowflakes falling as late as June 1) was the very informative International Theological Education Conference at Harrisburg. ABWE teachers from all around the world gathered to discuss cross-cultural curriculum design and teaching methods with seminars presented by Dr. Jim Plueddemann and Dr. Dave Livermore. The week of seminars went from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day and although the lengthy time was fatiguing, the impact that the Lord made on our lives through these men was a great blessing. I praise the Lord for His leading to a mission that continues to build up its missionary personnel and equip us to exercise our ministry better for God's glory. As I continue to teach in many different countries of the world, I feel more confident that the Lord can use me through the deepening exposure to cross-cultural understanding afforded by conferences like this. Please continue to pray that the Lord will give me understanding and communication skills to teach His truth in a meaningful way around the world.

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

Have you ever noticed how much of our society's energies are focused on the obsession of "ownership"? We insist upon a receipt for every purchase. We develop elaborate systems to keep track of land registry, automobile registry, even appliance registry. We build fences, post signs, install security systems and secure guards, all to protect ownership.

There is nothing inherently wrong with ownership; nevertheless, as Solomon discovered, along with ownership comes headache and worry: "As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?" (Ecclesiastes 5:11). Solomon discovered not only that "you cannot take wealth with you" in death, but that riches bring very little satisfaction in present life.

Jesus expressed the same truth: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:12). In spite of this, mankind still has an obsession with possession. People under stress should take a moment periodically and assess how much personal worry is directly related to ownership.

For the Christian, God has a better way! Those who have put their faith in Christ as personal Saviour are privileged to become part of God's own family: "to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). As such, the believer enters into a living relationship with a heavenly Father who is owner of all: "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it" (Psalms 24:1), and has the privilege of drawing upon the promises of God to be delivered from the worry of possessions. That deliverance is found in an appreciation of God's ownership of self, making each believer a steward of gifts rather than an obtainer of possessions.

When an individual believer, by praying in faith, yields "ownership of self" to the Lord God, a change of attitude transpires; all that was previously viewed as personal possessions is acknowledged as belonging to God. To such an individual there is a change of focus in life from the immediate to the eternal, from self to God. As a result of that change of focus, peace is found: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You: because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3).

In this new frame of mind, and fresh focus of heart, life is approached as a faithful steward serving a gracious and patient Father with unlimited resources, rather than a desperate achiever struggling to gain and maintain in order to survive. Here God's truth becomes living experience: "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing, and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches." (Proverbs 13:7).

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 shortfall – now, with the Canadian dollar recovering, only \$158, PTL!.
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.

Cameroon: June 5-14

Riverside Baptist, Huntsville: June 28

North Broadway Baptist, Tillsonburg: July 19

Trinidad: Aug. 28 - Sept. 14

Victory Fellowship Baptist, Hanover: Sept. 20

Calvary Baptist, Espanola: Sept. 26-27

Parry Sound Baptist: Oct. 4

First Baptist, Cochrane: Oct. 18

Southend Baptist, Owen Sound: Oct. 25

Otterville Baptist: Nov. 1

Central Baptist, Brantford: Nov. 8

Bethel Baptist, Orillia: Nov. 15

India: Nov. 20 - Dec. 8

Kathi's Notes... Just 3½ days left to teach this year's class, 2 staff days and then a wonderful summer vacation! I am again amazed at how quickly the school year has gone; it always looks like such a long time ahead in September. The Lord has shown His faithfulness and proven to be our great Jehovah Jireh at MCS. Earl & I have no big trips planned for this summer, but definitely a trip to the library is on order for me. Dave & Aleece will soon be settling into Lyndock Baptist church's parsonage, so there will be at least one trip over to Quadeville in eastern Ontario. Michele & Minne will be coming in early July for some time at the lake with the boys. Teresa often drives out for a time at the beach for the little boys. Poppa has found a new fisherman friend in Kai. We are looking forward to joining with Earl's family for a reunion in July. My sister, Dawn, will be completing a series of chemo treatments in August following cancer surgery. She may also need to have some radiation depending on the results of a MRI. She has been coping well; please pray for complete healing in her body. I hope to see many of you this summer and fall as we travel to churches in Ontario.

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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