



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

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

With our “April in July” showers now coming to an end (hopefully), Kathi and I are preparing for a holiday to the East Coast. July has been a planning and preparing month, working on classes to be taught in Trinidad in August – September and India in November – December. The Lord has presented the opportunity for me (Earl) to arrange for two additional Canadian teachers to help in West Africa. Dr. David Brandon from B.C., who joined the international teachers of ABWE three years ago has consented to help in Cameroon this October, and Pastor Toe-Blake Roy from Quebec (a former Bible College classmate of mine) has consented to help in Togo in 2010 as a short-termer. The privilege of helping arrange these additional teachers for West Africa has been a joy to me, knowing the challenge that the pastors there are facing to continue Theological Education. My prayer is that the Lord would raise other men up from Canada to be a part of career missionary teachers in the developing countries. As ABWE continues to labour around the world, the mission has identified 19 countries in desperate need of Theological Education for church leaders. Please pray that the Lord would move many of those called into ministry to pursue the required educational qualifications to meet that need. The time and money commitment is equal to preparing to be a medical doctor, and the rewards are ‘out of this world.’

As you will no doubt notice from our ‘present itinerary’ below, the remaining year is very busy not only with ‘teaching tours’ outside of Canada, but also with weekend ministries throughout Ontario. We are already planning our 2010 schedule. While teaching in Cameroon in June of this year, Dr. Simon Mvondo Edzoa, president of the Cameroon Bible Seminary asked me if I could make a commitment to the Pastoral Institute school which has been established to bring College level studies to pastors who are unable to attend the seminary. After praying about this, the Lord gave me peace to make such a commitment. So for the next few years, as God enables, I will be teaching in Cameroon in the months of February and September among a very highly educated group of men committed to pastoral ministry. The class of 25 – 30 students, including an electrical engineer, several police officers, a school principal and many other ‘professionals’ represents more than 12 distinct African cultures, from at least three African countries. I consider this a great privilege and an awesome opportunity to be a part of the Lord’s great work throughout Africa. Please pray for God’s wisdom in preparing classes and continued provision for the ministry travels.

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

#### God’s Guidance

A man asked: “What’s the fastest way to get to Toronto?” He was asked “Are you travelling by car or by boat?” “By car.” he replied. “That’s the fastest way” he was told. Isn’t life just like that? You look for direction and find meaningless advice! Today, more people are looking to tea leaves, palm readers and supposed psychic mentors than ever before.

For the Christian, life has divine direction, as Gregory Asimakoupoulos describes: “A certain harbour in Italy can be reached only by sailing up a narrow channel between dangerous rocks and shoals. Over the years, many ships have been wrecked, and navigation is hazardous. To guide the ships safely into port, three lights have been mounted on three huge poles in the harbour. When the three lights are perfectly lined up and seen as one, the ship can safely proceed up the narrow channel. If the pilot sees two or three lights, he knows he’s off course and in danger.

God has also provided three beacons to guide us. The same rules of navigation apply--the three lights must be lined up before it is safe for us to proceed. The three harbour lights of guidance are: 1. The Word of God (objective standard) 2. The Holy Spirit (subjective witness) and 3. Circumstances (divine providence). Together they assure us that the directions we’ve received are from God and will lead us safely along his way.” (See Psalm

119:105 and Isaiah 30:21).

Does this mean that the person who has accepted Christ as personal Saviour always knows exactly where God is leading? The answer is a definite “yes and no.” “Yes,” because if a Believer is yielded fully to the Will of God, there will be a confident “Yes, God will lead me to exactly where He wants me, and that will be the best place for me.” (Romans 8:28 – “All things work together for good to those who love God”). No, because sometimes a Believer is called to follow by faith, one step at a time, and trust God to guide in unknown paths. (Hebrews 11:8 – “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went”).

God gives His children a simple formula for following His “three lights of guidance”: “Commit your works to the Lord and your thoughts will be established... Man plans his way but God directs His steps” (Proverbs 3:3, 9). The Believer commits to God’s will and purpose in prayer. In so doing, God promises by His Word and His indwelling Holy Spirit to clarify our thinking. As thoughts are clarified, a plan takes shape in mind. As the plan is executed in practice, God promises to fine tune and further clarify direction by His intervention. God never leaves His own directionless, even if He only reveals the next step – which may be prayer! Christian friend, do you know where you are going?

### **Present Itinerary:**

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

Lyndock Baptist, Eganville, ON: Aug. 2  
Holiday to St Stephen, N.B.: Aug 3 – Aug 14  
Bethel Baptist, Orillia, ON: Aug. 23  
Teaching tour in Trinidad: Aug. 28 - Sept. 14  
Victory Fellowship Baptist, Hanover, ON: Sept. 20  
Calvary Baptist, Espanola, ON: Sept. 26-27  
Fellowship Baptist, Parry Sound, ON: Oct. 4  
First Baptist, Cochrane, ON: Oct. 18

Southend Baptist, Owen Sound, ON: Oct. 25  
Otterville Baptist, Otterville, ON: Nov. 1  
Central Baptist, Brantford, ON: Nov. 8  
Bethel Baptist, Orillia, ON: Nov. 15  
Teaching tour in India: Nov. 20 - Dec.

### **Please pray with us...**

1. For effective teaching where God leads. 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 Trinidad (August – September) and India (November).
4. For our monthly support shortfall – now approximately \$180.
5. For ministry opportunities in Canada and U.S. as we continue ministering in 2009 and planning 2010.

### **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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