



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 2009

Ministry Update...

Travels this month extended all the way from Timmins, ON. to Clarks Summit, PA., through sunshine and beautiful fall colours as well as downpours and snow. Such is travel in beautiful Canada. It was especially joyful for me [Earl] to be home for Thanksgiving – the first time in six years, thanks to the unique schedule of 2009. Our family ‘get together’ was a real treat and not short of great fun and laughter as well as shared thanksgiving to our God.

We continue to thank the Lord for His mercies in travel and blessings in ministry. We have had the privilege to see God especially move hearts toward commitment to reaching the lost acquaintances of church folks that we shared with. For those receiving this email who made these commitments, know that you are in our prayers – that the Lord would continue to encourage and strengthen you to complete the task.

My trip to Clarks Summit was for the purpose of sharing with the Baptist Bible Seminary dean, Dr. Michael Stallard a proposal for a joint scholarship plan between ABWE Canada and BBS for missionary international educators. I am in the process of inaugurating for ABWE Canada a project to encourage God’s people to provide tuition assistance to Theological Doctoral students in a similar manner that missionary medical doctor candidates are aided. The purpose of this is to provide qualified career missionaries to train national men around the world in order to take over the Bible college and seminary training. The window of opportunity for providing this training is viewed as diminishing in light of the growing disapproval toward ‘western’ visitors in many developing countries.

Dr. Stallard responded to my proposal by informing me that he was himself in the process of making a proposal to the BBS board for seminary tuition scholarship and stated that my timing was perfect for adding to his presentation. God is so good! Please pray that the Lord would put together a means of providing funds for missionary international educator candidates to complete the necessary advanced training required. The financial costs are high, however the spiritual costs of not providing the training for needy nations is much greater. If you are interested in receiving a DVD presentation of this ABWE Canada project please email me a request.

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

Odds or Even?

Dr. Jerome Frank told this story: "... a man I was sitting next to on a coast-to-coast flight told me, "You know, I used to be deathly afraid of flying. It all started after that man brought a bomb on board a flight to Denver to kill his mother-in-law. I could never get it out of my mind that someone on board one of my flights might also be carrying a bomb."

I asked, "Well, what did you do about it?"

He replied, "Well, I went to one of those special schools for people who are afraid of flying and they told me there was only one chance in ten thousand that someone would be on board my flight with a bomb. That didn't make me feel much better. The odds were still too close. But then I reasoned that if there was only one chance in ten thousand that one bomb would be on the plane, there was only one chance in 100 million that two bombs would be on board. And I could live with those odds."

So I asked, "But what good would that do you?"

He quickly replied, "Ever since then, I carry one bomb on board myself--just to improve the odds."

Few would consider this attempt at improving the odds a sensible choice, yet too many

people approach eternity in the same manner. Often when I ask whether a person believes he or she will spend eternity in heaven with God their response is: "Well, I've tried to live the best I can and I think the good I've done will out-weigh any sin I've committed!" God never made the assurance of heaven an attempt to better the odds. As a matter of fact, heaven has nothing to do with "the best I can do" or with "the good I've done." Scripture removes that philosophical approach: "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures... But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7).

God makes the assurance of heaven a matter of *belief* in the mercy of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary to pay the penalty of our sin, and *faith* in the power of Christ's resurrection to implant new life into a believer by the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is God's work for us that provides forgiveness and God's work in us that transforms the heart. Being saved from eternal loss is to be forgiven alone, doing good is the result of the transformation of salvation whereby a believer seeks to honour God in all things. Fellow children of God, please let your acquaintances know that they don't have to play the odds, God already evened the score, just believe!

Present Itinerary:

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

Central Baptist, Brantford, ON: Nov. 8

Teaching tour in India: Nov. 20 - Dec. 6

Bethel Baptist, Orillia, ON: Nov. 15

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 India (November), and Cameroon early in the new year.
4. For our monthly support shortfall of \$130.
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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