



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

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

Upon my return from India in early December I began pulpit supply ministry at Bethel Baptist in Orillia. This has been a great blessing as it not only kept us local on the weekends, but also gave more office time to complete the marking of the 100 papers from the seminary class in India. The 4 day snow storm during the second weekend of December kept us home due to impassable roads, and gave me much exercise digging out. Nevertheless, the result was a beautiful winter wonderland for Christmas. I'll leave it to Kathi to pass on the blessings of family Christmas together.

For those who in the past contributed to the West Africa fund for training pastors, the excess funds have been used in part to buy Bible Commentaries for the pastoral students in Cameroon. Dr. Simon, seminary president sends this thank you:

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

We want to thank you all for the grace of God that abounds in you midst for through your financial support, Dr. Earl COOPER was able to help our students in the Cameroon Bible ministry by buying good documents for their theological education. We were able to buy The ABC of Theology of Charles Ryrie and some concordances and Bible Dictionaries. The students are very thankful to you, and as the Director of the program, I am greatly encouraged and blessed.

Dear beloved, your gift has been a sweet smell before the Lord and may He grant you His mercies forever!  
In Christ, Dr. Simon MVONDO from Cameroon Africa

I also extend to all a heartfelt thank you for your generous contributions toward the training of pastors around the world. For those so moved, we do have a new ministry need involving tuition aid for students committed to perusing doctoral studies in preparation for the seminary professor needs of our schools. Our goal is not only to train national pastors, but to train some of those national pastors to become professors with Bible language skills themselves. This need is especially significant with future projections of increased resistance to missionary entries on many countries and a possible closing of doors for missionary teachers. Contributions toward this need can be sent to ABWE Canada's "International Educators Tuition Assistance Ministry" at the address listed below. A DVD introduction to this ministry is available; just email me (Earl) your request.

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

As another year dawns and speculation grows regarding what new discoveries and scientific advances will come this year, our thought turn to the spirit of discovery within man. The idea of penetrating uncharted areas and discovering unknown treasures holds the attention of most people. For the adventurers of our society the stories of early explorers hold a unique fascination. However, when the claim to fame of these explorers is peeled away and the motive for their searching spirit examined, great contrasts are found to exist. Take for instance the contrast between the underlying motive of David Livingstone who opened up the interior of Africa and Ponce de Leon who is credited with discovering Florida.

As most are aware, Ponce de Leon was motivated to explore because of a deep desire to find the "fountain of youth". Although the world benefited by the results of his search, Ponce de Leon never found his fountain. On the other hand, David Livingstone had discovered the fountain of youth and was motivated to explore in order to share it with the native people of Africa. Recognizing that few history books ever described Livingstone's motive as such, I base this statement on David Livingstone's own diary: "January 14, 1856. Evening: Felt much turmoil of spirit in the prospect of having all my plans for the welfare of this great region knocked on the head by savages tomorrow. But Jesus said, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, ... and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'"

What David Livingstone had discovered personally was what Ponce de Leon searched in vain for --eternal life. Before leaving England as a medical missionary, Livingstone had trusted in the death of Christ to pay for the guilt of sin and by faith he received the gift of God, eternal life through Christ. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23).

Livingstone knew firsthand the truth of these words of scripture: "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast in the abundance of your house; you give them

drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (Psalms 36:7-9 NIV). These truths were so real in Livingstone's life that he confidently declared "I had rather be in the heart of Africa in the will of God than on the throne of England out of the will of God"

The spirit of discover is a God created part of mankind. Part of that quest involves a desire deep within the heart of each person for eternity. In the years of Ponce de Leon's search there was quite likely a Bible within his own reach that could have directed him to the only true fountain of youth, Jesus Christ. What path will your quest take: that of David Livingstone's or Ponce de Leon's? History texts may not indicate much difference but eternity will.

**Kathi's Notes:** Our home has been alive with hustle and bustle since the day our school break began. Drew and Caleb arrived then and there has been laughter, chatter and fun, fun, fun ever since. Each day Caleb has given us a piano recital of the Christmas songs in his repertoire, Drew has shown his expertise on the Wii games, and Kai, Izzy, and Nate have joined in the fun as much as they could with sleepovers and playtimes. Having an abundance of snow has solved the problem "What can I do now?" Dave & Aleece have now arrived and we anticipate a great evening together. Aleece brought her harp and we've enjoyed her mini concerts—wonderful music for an afternoon nap! Add two lively dogs to the mix and envision one happy home. Tomorrow we'll travel to Aurora to have time with my sister's family—more music and fun in the offing! Family times are the special times I'll remember for the rest of the year.

### **Present Itinerary:**

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

Bethel Baptist, Orillia: Dec. 13 – Jan. 24

Cameroon Teaching Tour: Jan. 31 – Feb. 28

### **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 2010.
3. For preparation of the studies for Cameroon early in the new year.
4. For our monthly support shortfall.
5. For ministry opportunities in Canada and U.S. as we arrange our 2010 "Home" ministry schedule. .

### **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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