



***Son-rise in Africa Newsletter***  
**CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**  
**Report by EARL & KATHI COOPER**  
(for Newsletter Archives go to <http://www.discipleshipministries.ca/>)  
**January 2010**

### **Earl's Ministry Update...**

It seems impossible to accept that we are entering into our 8<sup>th</sup> year of ministry with ABWE Canada. As this new year opens our gratitude to the Lord grows as we reflect upon His faithfulness and blessings throughout these years. I have had the great privilege of meeting so many brothers and sisters in the Lord from many different countries and cultures, all of whom are sacrificially committed to learning the Word and serving the Lord.

January's ministry focus at Bethel Baptist in Orillia was such a blessing: a short reprieve from long weekend travels, a time to minister the Word with some measure of continuity in a single Body of Christ – and see the Lord work, a time to renew strength and focus for this year's ministry at home and abroad. My challenges for February are exciting, I am teaching four studies at the Cameroon Seminary; "Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" and "Proverbs Spiritual Health Check", as well as "Christology" and "Proverbs Spiritual Health Check" at the Pastoral Institute, all in Yaoundé, Cameroon. I have also been asked to teach a seminary student "Introduction to New Testament Greek" which will offer a good review for me.

Last year's broadened ministry has resulted in being asked to regularly help in Cameroon and India. This, along with the teaching needs at the BATA schools in Togo and Ghana beginning this year, calls for much prayer and discernment to understand exactly where the Lord desires me to focus. It also reinforces the reality of much needed additional teachers. Please pray that the Lord will make clear His direction for me and that He will also raise up teachers to meet the growing need. Please also pray that I might know how to better challenge God's people (particularly Bible College students and potential students) across Canada to consider continued theological education in preparation for missionary teaching around the world.

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

Our hearts have been stirred with the reports of the devastating Haiti earthquake. I trust that we, God's own people have done much to relieve that situation, yet there is another human-quake to consider. The Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, survived the great earthquake of 1923, and became a refuge for the survivors of that tragedy. The reason for this hotel's escape was its careful design by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Knowing the hotel was to rest on fluid ground, he designed the structure to ride out any shock waves by use of a specially engineered foundation. There is another kind of "quake," that is shaking our society and causing great suffering as well. This quake is centred directly in the middle of a vacuum; the absence of moral and ethical integrity, the void of spiritual and social understanding, the abandonment of absolute truth. Because of the vacuum, society is collapsing, taking with it victims of every age and distinction. The only refuge that will survive is that which is designed and created with careful foundation by the all-wise architect, God. One such refuge is the family.

With great care and purpose, the Lord God created the family with certain foundational blocks that assure its safety, as long as His blocks are built upon. These foundational blocks are evident in Genesis 1 and 2. The first of these foundational blocks is "a recognition of equality" between husband and wife. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. God blessed THEM and said to THEM, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Genesis 1:27-28 NIV).

In every sense, Adam and Eve were created equal, albeit with differing roles. In material, they were both created from the particles of earth, Adam from dust, Eve from Adam (Genesis 2). In essence, they both received the special attention of God's personal design (Genesis 2), and were formed with a distinctly superior soul (intellect, emotions, and will) as well as eternal spirit. In privilege they were equal in their fellowship with God (Genesis 3:8) and equal in their dominion over nature.

With the foundational block of "recognized equality," this first family had every opportunity to sustain an environment of sound attitudes between man and women. The entrance of sin and consequent corruption of that recognized equality, affected every generation since, with wrong attitudes between the sexes. Society has suffered from the human quake of clashing sexes. This has never been more prominent than in our society today. The abandonment of this foundational stone in the building of today's families has left homes susceptible to the "quake."

Howard Hendricks, in his book "Heaven Help the Home", suggests that families are like sand dunes, formed by influences not purposes. Those who desire a strong family, one that can withstand the great quake of today,

cannot ignore David's challenge "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" (Psalms 127:1). Despite the differing roles, is there a recognition of God-designed equality in your home?

**Kathi's Notes:** During January we have experienced a certain amount of stability in our lives. Being at home each weekend and ministering in the same church has been a blessing. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the folks at Bethel Baptist Church in Orillia, having shared many conversations with them and some terrific 'light lunches' (don't be misled by *that* expression!). I very much look forward to worshipping again at Riverside Baptist while Earl is away; times spent there are always a blessing to my heart. School is going well—I have such clever students! It is a joy to spend time with them during the week. I have lots of fun watching them learn (we laugh a lot in our classroom) and delight to see how much they mature and become independent during the year. It was thrilling to hear last week that a former KinderKid, now a Grade One student, asked his mother to help him trust Jesus as his Saviour. That makes it all worthwhile ☺

### **Present Itinerary:**

**Please pray for God's blessings as we continue arranging our 2010 schedule.**

Cameroon Teaching Tour: Jan. 29 – Feb. 21  
Fenelon Falls Baptist – March 14  
Grace Baptist, Windsor – March 20-21  
ABWE Canada Annual Meeting, London – April 17

### **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. That the Lord will make clear His direction and locations for Earl's teaching focus.
3. For the Lord to provide teachers to meet the growing need.
4. That Earl might know how to better challenge God's people to consider preparation for missionary teaching around the world
5. For travel safety during Earl & Kathi's continued travels in 2010.
6. For preparation of the studies for the year.
7. For our monthly support shortfall.
8. 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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