



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

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

The month of April has been a challenge for me due to the 'orders' to remain inactive (no jogging, no lifting, no yard work, etc.) while recuperating from minor surgery. The three week 'lay around' (with only 1 more to go – I hope!) has given me a chance to read 6 books, rewrite a couple of studies, rework our 'stewardship' and 'depression' seminars, and otherwise enjoy the sunny days we had in Muskoka before the black flies descended. Although surgery has prevented me from scheduling the usual May or June teaching trip (flight for 6 weeks after surgery is not allowed), I am scheduled to be in Cameroon in September, was able to confirm the ministry in India for November 26 to December 12, and was also able to fill in much of our 2010 'Canada' ministry schedule.

April always includes the ABWE Canada annual meeting in London. As representative of ABWE Canada's International Theological Education, I presented our annual report and was privileged to hear the reports of many of our Canadian missionaries. It was also a thrill to meet the new appointees to ABWE Canada. As Dave Smith reported in the last office newsletter: "ABWE Canada and its international partners planted 189 churches in 2009. Every 2 days in the ABWE world a church was planted." God has continued to bless the efforts of His labourers. The schools where I teach in Cameroon and India are actively involved in church planting. Kathi and I are truly grateful to the Lord for being a small part of these efforts. We thank you for your continued prayer and sacrificial support which makes these efforts possible.

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

Martin Buxbaum, quoted in "Bits & Pieces", wrote this: "The poet Coleridge was visited by an admirer one day. During the conversation the subject got around to children. "I believe," said the visitor, "that children should be given a free rein to think and act and thus learn at an early age to make their own decisions. This is the only way they can grow into their full potential." "Come see my flower garden," said Coleridge, leading the man outside. The visitor took one look and exclaimed, "Why that's nothing but a yard full of weeds!" "It used to be filled with roses," said Coleridge, "but this year I thought I'd let the garden grow as it willed without tending to it. This is the result!"

Many parents may wish to relinquish their responsibility to pro-actively raise their children with sound values, good morals and self discipline. The consequence of expecting such behaviour as a "natural part of growing up" is the same as leaving a rose garden to itself. Although God our creator established order and beauty, he also gave the responsibility to man to attend to the garden. God also gave parents the responsibility to attend to their own children: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4 NIV)

It is not the responsibility of the state, nor the school, nor the church, to ensure that children receive a balanced upbringing. That job rests squarely on the shoulders of parents. In this corrupt and corroding society, where moral, ethical and spiritual values are being mocked by the highest authorities, parents can ill afford to ignore, or pass on, their task of child rearing to others.

God has not only given this responsibility to parents, but has also furnished the means to achieve the task. He has given us His own Word of Truth, to lead us to Him, and guide us in life. The words of God to the nation Israel are a call to every parent today: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7 NIV).

The 'family altar' or family devotion time is a time where God's Word is presented as the family guidebook. Parents that take the time to share God's truth with their children in a practical, daily-situations setting demonstrate 'how to' follow God's truth in life. Wise parents that know the Lord, follow the Lord, and teach in their own homes the ways of the Lord, can draw upon this truth for comfort and peace: "My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching... When you walk, they will guide you; when

you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life" (Proverbs 6:20-23 NIV).

In what garden are your children growing?

**Kathi's Notes:** Well, the snow tires are off, but not until April 29! Although we had snow as late as last week, it did not amount to much. I've been able to get some gardening done but now the black flies are a deterrent and I will be choosy about when and how long I go outside. I must go out each day, however, as I am waging an ongoing battle with some lily beetles that will strip the lilies to stems if I don't keep at them. Those little red insects have such a voracious appetite! And they are tricky, too. If they fall on the ground their black undersides are very difficult to see. As well, they cover themselves in excrement at some stages of life. Sounds like a great object lesson to teach the importance of confessing sin, doesn't it? Now that the temperature is on the plus side of the thermometer, I've been able to begin my routine of having devotions and coffee on the screened porch in the morning. The goldfinches are awake then and sing joyously as I have a quiet time. Hope you are enjoying the beauty of springtime, too.

### **Present Itinerary:**

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

Riverside Baptist, Huntsville –April 25, May 2

First Baptist, Waterloo –May 15 & 16

Courtland Bible Fellowship, Courtland –May 29-30

AGC Conference, Ottawa –June 3-6

First Baptist, Cochrane –June 12-13

ABWE Canada ITE meeting, London –June 16

Grace Baptist, Simcoe –June 27

CAMEROON – SEPTEMBER

INDIA-NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

### **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 the Lord to provide teachers to meet the growing need.
3. That Earl might know how to better challenge God's people to consider preparation for missionary teaching around the world.
4. For continued healing for Earl.
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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