



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

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

The September Cameroon teaching tour was a great blessing. The weather was a comfortable 22C to 25C with heavy rains only on a few days. Actually the seminary students who keep gardens at the school needed much more rain than was received. Earl taught a college class to 18 students; the study was Christology. He also taught Bibliology to a seminary class of 12 students. As well, for a 1 week period Earl taught at the Cameroon Pastoral Ministry the *Epistle to the Romans*. This class consisted of 26 pastors who take these studies from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday. This week was a blur of activity with classes at the seminary from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., chapel messages, a quick lunch, a 1.5 hour drive to Yaoundé to teach at CPM, then a 1 to 2 hour return trip at night. During this week I sent Kathi this email which will give you an idea of the challenges of Cameroon travel: "It has been a crazy week with classes in the seminary and at Yaoundé. The trip to the city is proving to be a real burden because of road construction. The pot holes are large enough to swallow a truck! I actually have to concentrate on keeping my tongue back in my mouth so I do not bite it when we strike a hole on the road. It's 1 to 2 hours of knocks and bangs which leave me exhausted. I have been getting home around 8 or 8:30 and going to bed by 9 or 9:30--not even reading a book. The classes are going well but the schedule just keeps me too busy to even get to email. I now have a bit of time because today I only teach one class at the seminary--so I got the email stick to say 'I am still alive'."

Earl was able to complete the arrangements for an agreement between ABWE Canada and the Cameroon Seminary. This will allow ABWE CA to raise funds for ministry projects of the Seminary ministry. The school is running on a shoe-string budget with many important things like inoculations for the staff going unattended. It is our goal to pass the burden of the school to the churches across Canada, praying that we will be moved to help this good work of God in Cameroon. We thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement.

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

There is a lake that my son and I used to frequent for fishing. It has a unique characteristic-- it supports a floating island. Mostly made of marsh with a few small bushes, this island remains in place by the root system of the plants; there is little solid ground beneath.

This island reminds me of much of what is called "Christianity" today. There is a measure of activity and resemblance of life, however there is no real foundation. This inauthentic Christianity, though claiming Christ, does not hold to the basic prerequisite mentioned by Jesus himself: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) Without new birth, there can be no fellowship with God and no true, spiritual foundation for life and worship.

So what does it mean to be born again you may ask? Jesus gave the answer Himself: "I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." (John 3 NIV). Jesus declared that there is a part of man called "spirit" that must be "born", even as the physical part of man has been born.

This birth takes place when a person believes what God says about himself or herself; that they are separated from God because of sin: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19 NIV). Then, upon accepting God's verdict about personal sin, believes what God has done for him or her: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV)

This expression of belief involves a repentant heart and a firm confidence that Jesus died on the cross to take the man's judgement for sin upon himself, and rose from the grave to offer true everlasting life: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18).

Inauthentic Christianity has been described as "a style of Christianity based more on external methods than on internal change, an attempt at godliness that lacks the power." It is religion without relationship to God, an island of activity, adrift on the sea of human preferences and purposes, trusting in human effort and personal goodness. It is void of the sure and true foundation of Jesus, and ignores the very Word of God: "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11 NIV).

The storm will someday come and this island will be no more. Be sure of the foundation of your life.

**Kathi's Notes:** My head's awl with the activities of the first weeks of school and I wonder how it can be Thanksgiving weekend already! My class of KinderKids is delightful, although by the end of the day, I'm ready for a cup of tea and some quiet (maybe some Advil, too!). I am always amazed (dismayed!) in September how much work is involved to enable children to be independent learners—do you know how many wrong ways there are to hold a pair of scissors? I continue to teach our grandson, Kai, and so I often hear "the rest of the story" as we travel down Hwy. #11 on our way home. It worked out well that Earl was away for the first weeks of school as I was able to concentrate on preparation for courses and prepare/laminate visuals. We just spent a weekend at Victory Baptist in Hanover and enjoyed the renewal of acquaintances there. We look forward to the Pinegrove anniversary this coming weekend. Many friendships were made during our 20 years of ministry there. Our family will spend time together for Thanksgiving; however, David and Aleece will be busy with their church family at Lyndock. We'll visit them later in October and see first-hand how grandson #6 is progressing. The lovely pink baby afghan I have crocheted will have to go to the school's silent auction--sigh!

### **Present Itinerary:**

**Please pray for God's blessings as we continue to minister through our busy fall schedule:**

#### **Teaching Tour in CAMEROON – SEPTEMBER**

Pinegrove Baptist Anniversary, Bracebridge: Oct. 10  
Parry Sound Baptist, Parry Sound: Oct. 17  
Lyndock Baptist, Eganville: Oct 24  
Good Soil Seminar, Harrisburg, PA: Oct. 27-30  
Otterville Baptist, Otterville: Nov. 7

Bethel Baptist, Orillia--Depression Seminar: Nov. 13  
Calvary Baptist, Espanola--Depression Seminar & Ministry: Nov. 21-22

#### **Teaching Tour in 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 throughout the world.
3. That Earl might know how to better challenge God's people to consider preparation for missionary teaching.
4. For safety during our fall travels.
5. For preparation of the studies for the coming year and the writing of books on Stewardship and Depression.
6. For our (minimal) monthly support shortfall – we are at 95% PTL.
7. For ministry opportunities in Canada and U.S. as we begin to arrange our 2011 'Home' ministry schedule.
8. For ABWE Missionaries in pre-field ministry that the Lord would supply the committed support needs.
9. For God to intervene in the Cameroon cholera outbreak.

### **Praise the Lord...**

...for the good news of a new baby grandson who is already running like his mother.  
...for Earl's fruitful time in Cameroon and for safety as he travelled the roads and airways.  
...for the beauty of autumn (have you noticed the reds are redder this year than last!)

### **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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