



***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 2010**

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

The beauty of Muskoka in October made sticking to my office studies difficult. Nevertheless, I persevered at writing student manuals for my coming India teaching tour in December. The weekend ministries at various Ontario churches did give opportunity to enjoy the season. This was highlighted by attendance at a week of seminars at the ABWE headquarters in Harrisburg PA. Five of our Canadian missionaries were trained to teach Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship. This theology of E & D addresses the cultural obstacles of the gospel in society and focuses on a Biblically chronological presentation of the redemption in Christ. We were all excited about the potential of this unique approach to evangelism and discipleship and are anxious to offer the teaching to churches in Canada. Please take the time to review and evaluate the approach at [www.goodsoil.com](http://www.goodsoil.com). The month has passed quickly; much labour has to be completed before I head to India. Please pray for the Lord to give me success in developing effective class lessons and manuals for the seminary students that I will be instructing in India.

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

There is a spider that carefully lays her eggs and disguises them in the bark of a tree. After the eggs hatch, the mother spider exhausts all her energy providing food until the little ones can care for themselves. The sacrifice of sustaining her babies costs the mother her life.

Sacrifice is the great advancer of any cause; this is particularly true of Christianity. It is through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross in payment for sin that man has the privilege to be restored to God through faith. It is by the principle of sacrifice that the evidence of this salvation gains its greatest impact in the world. Christ said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34 NIV)

Although there is only one sacrifice for sin - that of Jesus on the cross, each believer is called to a path of self-sacrifice: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1 NIV)

In a practical sense this means that Christians should be more interested in serving than being served, in ministering than being ministered to. For example, in the marriage relationship, each spouse is called to love the other. That means putting the interests and welfare of the other first. In other words, each spouse should seek to minister to the other for the other's good, not manipulate the other for their own good!

In the work relationships, the Christian employee should do the best job they can as serving the Lord, not the least they can for the most they can get! Likewise, Christian employers are to treat their employees with generosity and justice as Christ treats His own, not with an overbearing attitude, seeking the most for the least! (see Ephesians 6:5-10).

The way of sacrifice is the way of faith. Of course some will take advantage! Of course others will mock! Of course the business might not enjoy as great a profit! But to live in such a way is to truly follow Christ, trusting to His care the results, believing that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV) as Paul shared: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33 NIV). Imagine the impact if each believer would truly accept the call of self-sacrifice!

As God's Word says: "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them... We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." (Hebrews 6:10,12 NIV)

Christian reader, will you take up your cross of sacrifice?

**Kathi's Notes:** Last Friday I was in charge of our school assembly. Our theme this year is "Mission Possible: Sharing God with Others". My Bible lesson was entitled "No Turning Back". The characters we learned about were Silas and Mary Slessor, missionaries who experienced many hardships, yet did not turn back. The Bible verse, Isaiah 40: 29, "He gives strength to the weary and increases power to the weak" is a great reminder that God gives us the strength to keep on even during hard times. The next day I gave a Bible lesson for Riverside's "Hugging Huntsville" event that ministered to the children of disadvantaged families. The opportunity to share in ministry in

our home church was a blessing to me, as we are rarely available to help there. Our weekend with David & Aleece (#6 grandson is doing fine), was great; we woke up Saturday morning to a snow-covered white world. The Sunday evening hymn sing that involved area churches was very enjoyable—lots of 'old favourites! One night early in October our doorbell rang and rang and rang—that's a sign that the Leeder boys are here. As we opened the door the 3 little guys burst in chanting, "We're having a baby! We're having a baby!" Earl asked them, "A baby what?", thinking Teresa had finally caved in to allow a puppy in the house. I looked incredulously at Teresa & Adam as the truth dawned on me. You guessed it—grandbaby #7 is on the way! Hmm... maybe I'll hold onto that pink baby afghan awhile longer!! We're looking forward to having Drew & Caleb stay with us for 2 days this week while Minne & Michele attend the ACSI Teachers Conference. Sadly, I'll be teaching both days, but I'm sure the evenings will be lively.

### **Present Itinerary:**

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

Otterville Baptist, Otterville: Nov. 6 & 7

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 as winter weather brings changes in driving conditions.
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.

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

...for the good health of Aleece and her baby and Teresa and her baby.  
...that Earl's passport arrived in the mail the day before he needed it to cross into USA  
...for an extended visa for Cameroon  
...for insights learned at the recent training conference in Harrisburg, PA  
...that Minne did a lot of the driving to Harrisburg and back.  
...for snow tires ☺

### **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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