



### A NEW Chapter of Ministry

In November, we entered a new chapter in our ministry. After 3½ years of being in transition, we at last feel like we are moving back into a fuller ministry again. It was in May 2011 that we left Indonesia & our responsibilities there. After being in Canada for a year of Home Assignment, in August 2012 we moved to Rwanda to begin the next stage of service with CBM. We spent a year in full-time language study, then a second year in part-time language study as well as recovering from a back injury.

So when I (Darrell) stepped back into a classroom on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, it was with great joy! I taught an intensive (one week) course at RIET, the seminary of our Rwandan Baptist partner, the AEBR. To make it even better, the course I presented was Homiletics (ie. Preaching), which is one of my greatest passions! For Laura Lee, her new ministry focus is to organize all the administrative details and logistics for any CBM Short Term Mission teams (STMs) that come to Rwanda. She and Jan Mills, one of our new CBM colleagues, have inherited all responsibilities for STMs from Andre Sibomana. The first STM totally under their oversight arrived on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It was an eleven-member team of Canadian Baptist Women from across the country. It was a wonderful two weeks as they were able to connect in meaningful ways with women from both Congo and here in Rwanda.



**Darrell with his Homiletics students**

Paired with the beginning of these ministries has been the ending of our formal language studies. Our language helpers, Jeremie and Juliette, have patiently walked with us on this journey for over two years. We are still only in the "little children" stage of speaking Kinyarwanda, but continue to try to use it and make gains step by step. We hope to keep working away at it informally and use what we have learned whenever we have the opportunity.



**The women's STM visiting an Orphans and Vulnerable Children ministry**

As we look ahead to 2015, we are thrilled about the different ways God is going to use us in this wonderful partnership we have with the AEBR. New STMs have already been scheduled. Training seminars for pastors and church leaders about small group ministry and Sunday School are being prepared. An exciting evangelism initiative is being organized. Bible school and seminary courses are being discussed. And these are just some of the upcoming opportunities in 2015. Pray with us that God will use these efforts to impact lives both now and for all eternity.

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## A NEW Team for Rwanda

On Saturday, Dec. 6, our team grew yet again. Ken & Wendy Derksen from Saskatoon landed here in Kigali to join ourselves, the Mills, and Andre Sibomana as the new and expanded CBM Rwanda Team. It is exciting to see how God has brought us all together from diverse geographical locations - from Rwanda and Western, Central & Eastern Canada. We all have very different backgrounds, abilities, personalities and experiences. And yet we believe that he has formed us into a team that is going to be strong and effective, as we walk alongside our Baptists sisters and brothers here in Rwanda.

Our differences are going to allow each of us to be focused on specific areas of ministry: Andre – Community development; Darrell – Training of church leadership; Laura Lee – STM logistics coordinator; Jonathan – Church governance; Jan – Global discipleship facilitator; Wendy & Ken – Financial and program management support. In addition, our partner, the AEBR, has been reinvigorated under the new leadership of Gato Munyamasoko. They have been working hard to discern God's vision, and develop a strategy to pursue this effectively.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Christian ministry is working within a great team. We are truly feeling blessed to be working side-by-side with such wonderful people. We are looking to the future with great anticipation!



**CBM Rwanda Team**

## A NEW Approach to Christmas

In both Indonesia and Rwanda, gift-giving is not a significant part of their Christmas tradition. This has meant that the primary focus has remained on the celebration of Jesus' birth, with little or no competition from the unbridled commercialism and materialism which too often raises its ugly head at this time of the year. However,



the tradition of gift-giving found in Western culture isn't all bad. It was inspired not only by the Magi who brought beautiful gifts to the young Jesus, but also in the fact that Christmas began when God the Father sent us his best gift, his son Jesus. Ideally, that loving act is what we model when we exchange presents at Christmas.

Admittedly, this expression of love and care can at times simply result in the accumulation of stuff. Is there a way at Christmas to show someone that you appreciate her or him, and yet demonstrate that materialism is not in line with the spirit of that Bethlehem birth? For those who are not familiar with it, or who have forgotten about it, let me introduce you to the CBM Gift Catalogue. This annual catalogue offers "bite-size" opportunities to invest in the lives of people who have great need, on behalf of your loved one. There are many different options, ideal for individuals, families, small groups or churches. Printed copies of the catalogue are available. But for most people, the easiest way is to go onto CBM's website to access the catalogue online

( [www.cbmin.org/get-involved/gift-catalogue/](http://www.cbmin.org/get-involved/gift-catalogue/) ).

Since I (Darrell) am involved in pastoral training & theological education, may I suggest you consider the gifts under the "Training Leaders" category? These are projects which sometimes struggle to get as much attention as other more concrete projects. However, I can assure you, these are efforts worthy of your support. In my ministry, I look in the faces of people who desperately want to serve the Lord the best that they can, yet so often lack the means to make that a reality. Building up even one church leader has positive, life-changing impact on many people for years and years to come. It really is a gift that lasts!

## And Now a Word For Our Sponsors

There is good news regarding our support. Through the first eleven months of 2014, we are significantly ahead of where we were a year ago. We know that this is because of the desire of many individuals and churches to be an active part of this ministry by contributing financially. Thank you for standing beside us so faithfully this year. It is such an encouragement.

But the truth is that there is some not-so-good news as well. The current economic climate in Canada has not been one which is generous toward charitable organizations. 2014 has been a difficult year for CBM's overall support. For that reason, we would love to "close the gap" on our ministry support. Through November we have received around 75% of our total ministry expenses. But the closer we can get to having it 100% covered by our supporters, the more money is freed up for CBM to cover the costs of projects for church leaders, orphans, farmers, etc. If you would be interested in helping us "close the gap", you can contact Barb Keys [bkeys@cbmin.org](mailto:bkeys@cbmin.org) at the CBM office (7185 Millcreek Dr., Mississauga, ON, L5N 5R4) and she'll be happy to assist you.

## The Power Centre: Connecting Thru Prayer

### PRAYERS ALREADY ANSWERED:

- In October, our colleague, CBM National Field Staff Andre Sibomana was ordained. Not only was this an important day in the lives of Andre and his family, but also for AEBR. By recognizing God's call on one who models servant leadership, vision, and a rock-solid commitment to integral mission, it provides an example to AEBR's future leaders to live out their calling in the same way.
- As Caleb has reached the halfway point of grade 10, we are thankful that he is having a great year, that his tummy troubles continue to improve, and that he can participate in extra activities such as acting in *A Christmas Carol*.
- Bronwyn has joined us for a 3-week Christmas break! It is wonderful! Need we say more?
- Darrell's back has continued to slowly improve. Most days it does quite well. Praise the Lord!

### ONGOING PRAYER ITEMS:

- We're grateful to have a full team. Pray for Ken & Wendy as they get settled and for all of us as we get to know one another more deeply and begin to serve together.
- With the completion of our formal language studies, pray that God will help us continue to learn and use it more and more on a day-to-day basis.
- The upcoming ministry in 2015 is looking exciting. Pray for Laura Lee as she and Jan gear up for more STMs coming later in the year. And pray for Darrell as he prepares for pastoral teaching and training in a variety of settings. Also remember the many other projects that CBM is involved with here in Rwanda: literacy, orphans and vulnerable children, Guardians of Hope (HIV/AIDS support), food security, peace and reconciliation, etc.
- Pray for CBM, that the financial support from individuals and churches will strengthen, allowing us to truly *embrace a broken world through word and deed*.

