



CBM

*embracing a broken world
through word & deed*

Bustin' With News

Ministry Update from the Bustins

September 2014 Edition



From Rwanda



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Journeying "Home" (ie. Canada)

It is hard to believe that since our last ministry update our Home Assignment in Canada has come and gone. We had the joy of being reunited with our dear family and friends, the pleasure of meeting many people for the first time and the rich experience of sharing with numerous churches about the ministry here in Rwanda. The time in Canada was very full, but also very rewarding.

Family Reunion - I (Darrell) left Rwanda on April 24th and spent the next 5½ weeks travelling on my own in Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Since Caleb was still finishing grade 9, he and Laura Lee didn't fly out of Rwanda until May 31st, after the school year was completed. On June 1st, I drove to the Toronto Airport, Bronwyn flew up from Moncton, Laura Lee and Caleb flew in from Rwanda, and there was a grand reunion! According to Bronwyn's calculations, it had been 352 days since we had been together as a foursome. Of course, the time with other family members was also precious. We made every effort to savour those wonderful moments together.

Visits to Churches Big and Small – During our three-month Home Assignment, we were able to visit 21 different congregations, each one being a Partner in Mission with us, praying for us, encouraging us, and supporting us financially. The churches range from having walked with us since our very first days with CBM back in 2002 to those which have just started recently. The churches were so diverse – from the flat prairie towns to fishing communities, from large city churches to small congregations in villages. However, one thing was always the same. As we did presentations, as well as talked and ate with people, it was a great encouragement for us to see the interest so many have in the ministry that is happening in Rwanda. Their many words and acts of kindness were greatly appreciated by us.

Face-to-face with Friends and Supporters – It is always a joy to visit with friends and supporters, especially since there is usually an ocean between us. We were grateful for the chance to catch up on each other's lives, to answer questions about Rwanda and the ministry, and simply to enjoy one another's company again. It is nice in this modern age, with tools like email, Facebook and Skype, to be able to communicate with people on a regular basis despite great distances. However, nothing beats time spent face-to-face with someone.

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Family reunion at the Toronto Airport



Caleb & Bronwyn with their grandparents

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Time with New CBMers – One of the bonuses of our time in Canada was the opportunity to spend time with new CBM colleagues: the Mills and the Derksens. While I (Darrell) was out in Saskatoon in May, I was able to stay with Ken & Wendy Derksen. The timing couldn't have been better. It had just been announced that they had been appointed as Global Field Staff by CBM. They will be joining the team here in Rwanda in the months to come. Then, in June, we were able as a family to have a meal with Jonathan and Janice Mills and their son Robert in the Ottawa area. We had met them here in Rwanda last March for just a few days, so it was good to reconnect with them as they were in their final couple of months of preparation before moving to Rwanda. Then, just three days after we returned to Kigali, they arrived tired, but still smiling! It is fantastic to have them here as part of CBM's team and exciting to imagine what God has in store here in Rwanda!



With some lovely NS ladies



Ken and Wendy Derksen



With college friends Matt & Heather

Returning "Home" (ie. Rwanda)

After a busy Home Assignment, it was time for us to be heading back to Rwanda. And, as we stepped off of the plane in Kigali, it really did have the feeling of coming "home". We thought that this was a good sign. As difficult as it was to once again be leaving family and friends behind, the Spirit was giving us a peace which confirmed that this is where God wants us to be serving him.

One of the first things that we needed to focus on was the immediate arrival of our new colleagues, the Mills. Jonathan, Jan and Robert landed here in Kigali exactly 3 days after we did. The process of packing up, saying goodbye to several children, and moving across the ocean into a totally different culture to begin a brand new type of ministry is no small task. We wanted to be able to help them with the transition however we could to make it a bit smoother. It was encouraging how quickly God provided a house for them so that they could begin to settle in.

The next big event was getting Caleb started in Grade 10 at Kigali International Community School (KICS). He was excited to be going back and looking forward to being with some of his friends again. We are so grateful for the opportunity he has to be going to such a great Christian school only 10 minutes drive from our house. Robert Mills, who is the same age, also started at KICS and is in many of the same classes together with Caleb. We're thankful too that, during Home Assignment, Caleb's weakened digestive system was able to get straightened around so that he is healthy again – though still lactose intolerant. We are praying that he stays healthy this term.



First Meal at the Mills' new home

We have also been busy being long-distance parents to Bronwyn, as she finished up her summer

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job at Hillside Baptist Church in Moncton and launched into her 2nd year at Crandall University. We continue to miss her but feel blessed for all that God is doing in her life.

As for Laura Lee and I, we have been busy trying to catch up on what has happened in the ministries since we left and also prepare for what is coming in the near future. Laura Lee is busy organizing the many details involved for the upcoming Short Term Missions teams (STMs). I have been spending time with Nathan, the Head of the Evangelism Department, planning some major initiatives in evangelism and discipleship in the Baptist churches. Our colleague, Andre Sibomana, continues to be a wonderful teammate to both of us, always ready to lend his wisdom and experience. We have also begun our part-time language studies again, trying to learn as much Kinyarwanda as we can before the end of the year.

So it looks like there is lots of ministry awaiting us and many challenges to be navigated. But we can honestly say, "It really is good to be back 'home'."

The Power Centre: Connecting Thru Prayer**PRAYERS ALREADY ANSWERED:**

- ✎ Praise the Lord for all the good experiences of our Home Assignment with churches, supporters and family.
- ✎ We are so thankful that Caleb's "tummy troubles" are much better now. Even though he is still lactose intolerant, he is much healthier than he was last semester.
- ✎ Praise the Lord for the many people whose lives are being touched through the partnership of CBM and the Association of Baptist Churches of Rwanda (AEBR). The hungry are growing food, the illiterate are reading, the sick are being strengthened, the young are being cared for, churches are growing, and pastors are being equipped. It is wonderful to see what God is doing!
- ✎ Darrell's back survived Home Assignment! After doing presentations in 21 churches, spending over 45 hours in the air, sleeping in 25 different beds, driving for many long hours, praise the Lord that his back is almost as good as it was when he left Rwanda 3 months earlier. There's still more physiotherapy to be done, but we're full of thanks.

ONGOING PRAYER ITEMS:

- ✎ Pray for Bronwyn as she begins her 2nd year at Crandall University. Her work load will be heavier this year as she begins her BEd degree to be done at the same time as her English degree. Being separated from the rest of us here in Rwanda has been challenging as well.
- ✎ Pray for our partner, the AEBR, as it works toward a couple of new initiatives for the coming year. One will focus on small group ministries in their churches and the other will be an evangelistic church-planting effort.
- ✎ Pray for the "gift of tongues" for us as we continue our language studies part-time from now till the end of 2014.
- ✎ Pray for the Mills (Jonathan, Jan and Robert) as they continue the challenging task of settling in.

And Now a Word For Our Sponsors

We were so pleased during Home Assignment to be able to share through personal conversations or through our presentations about what God is doing here in Rwanda. And it was wonderful to have the chance to personally thank so many of you who pray for us regularly and support us financially. We are truly blessed. Perhaps, in hearing from us about the work that is going on, you now find yourself interested in giving to our ministry for the first time. All you need to do is contact Barb Keys (bkeys@cbmin.org) at the CBM office and she'll be able to help you. Or maybe you already contribute to the ministry but sense that God has put you in a position to increase your regular support. That would be greatly appreciated as we work together to impact lives for both now and eternity.

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