



CBM

*embracing a broken world
through word & deed*

Bustin' With News

Ministry Update from the Bustins

July 2015 Edition



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2015 Has Been a GREAT Year So Far

We are over half-way through the year 2015. How are you doing in your goals or resolution? In some ways, 2015 has been an exciting year for us so far. In our ministries, we have had opportunities to see some great things happen. Laura Lee has been able to see all the organizational details she had worked on come together for a Short Term Mission team (STM) from two Baptist churches in Grande Prairie, Alberta. They had a wonderful and challenging time. (While the team was travelling, they were accompanied by our colleague, Jan Mills.) At one church they built a water tower and baptismal tank which will be a blessing to both the church as well as the local community. In another area they divided up in teams of two (plus a translator) and spent a good part of the day with different families who are part of the Guardians of Hope program (CBM's program which reaches out to people who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS). They got to experience a little of what life is like for people who live on \$2 a day. They fetched water from a stream, worked in the fields, helped prepare meals, etc. The experience was life-changing for all involved. Preparations are also being made for an STM which will be coming for the first couple of weeks in August. They will be participating in 2 different Peace Camps for youth & young adults.



Photo by J Mills

STM members with Rwandan family

I (Darrell) have had the joy of being a part of teaching and leadership development with our Rwandan Baptist partner (the AEBR). I taught another course at their seminary in Kigali, called the Kigali Evangelical Institute of Theology (RIET). This time we studied Christian Education, focusing on the development of children and how to put together a lesson that can reach all the different learning styles which children have. My other areas of ministry were done in partnership with Pastor Japhet, the head of the Evangelism and Church Growth department. We were involved in capacity building seminars throughout the country for leaders in the AEBR churches. It was focused particularly on cell group and Sunday School ministries. As is usually the case, these leaders are so open and eager to be learning skills that can help them as they lead God's people. There is also a project aimed at strengthening 5 local regional Bible Schools. One of the ways we did that was to put together a small library for each school with theology books and study helps that were written in Kinyarwanda. It is difficult because there are very few of these books in that language, and usually the cost of these books is prohibitive for most of these pastors. Now these small Bible schools

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Capacity Building Seminar with Church Leaders

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will have some resources that the students can use.

It is truly a joy seeing these church leaders grow and develop, seeing lives being helped in concrete ways. These leaders are so thankful to God for those people who make these things possible. And we are too. Even though we are the ones people in Rwanda see, we know it is only possible because there are people like you who pray and who support this ministry financially. So let us pass on to you their thanks and God's blessing upon you and your families.



Small libraries for 5 Bible Schools

And Now a Word For Our Sponsors

We want to say a great big Thank You to all of you churches and individuals who contributed to our ministry last year. For the first time since we have been with CBM, there was enough given to our support to cover 100% of our ministry budget. We are amazed and humbled by your generosity. We pray that you will sense God's blessing on your life and that we will use those funds in the best way possible. It is also interesting that last year over a quarter of our supporters used automatic debit. If you are interested in or have questions about this method, you can contact Barb Keys (bkeys@cbmin.org or 1-905-821-3533) at the CBM office and she'll be able to help you.

Of course, that brings us to 2015. We trust that last year's strong giving will continue this year. Overall, CBM had a challenging year financially in 2014. But when our ministry is fully supported, that makes it easier for CBM to fund the many projects we have with our international partners like the AEBR in areas such as leadership development, literacy, food security, etc. We know we are blessed to be able to see some of those life-changing projects. If you are interested in becoming a supporter of our ministry, all you need to do is contact Barb Keys (see above) and she'll be pleased to answer your questions.

2015 Has Been a TOUGH Year So Far

Even though there have been great things taking place in our ministry, it has not been without challenges. The main issue is that my (Darrell's) back problem has had two different relapses, at the end of December and then again in May. The last one basically took me back to where I was two years ago. I ended up in the hospital again, trying to get the pain under control. The challenge was that we had already purchased tickets so that we could return to Canada on June 13th for vacation. However, it was very clear that we would need to pursue new options for dealing with my back.

As we talked the issues through with CBM, it was clear that they were very concerned for us as a family and wanted to see me healthy again before returning to Rwanda. I have therefore been put on medical leave at least until the end of 2015. Needless to say, this has been both a blessing and a struggle. We are grateful to be part of an organization which cares deeply for its staff. But, truthfully, it has been hard to be "taken out of the game". There are so many aspects of the ministry that will be impacted, it's rather mind boggling. However, it has been much easier because of our fantastic colleagues (Canadian & Rwandan). They have already gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping us.

This has also been a time which has pushed our faith to deeper levels. Through all of this, it has

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been amazing how God has been answering prayers about my back and speaking comforting words to my heart. For that I am deeply grateful. Let me share a few of the ways we've seen God at work.

- I was able to make it through our flight home just three days after getting out of the hospital.
- In the short time we have been home, I have been assessed by a physiotherapist, been seen by my family doctor, met with an orthopaedic surgeon who is a back specialist, had a MRI, saw the surgeon for a follow-up visit, and had pre-op blood work done.
- And this Wednesday, July 22, I am going to have surgery (discectomy) on my back!

One of our friends said that the word "cancellation" must be our new favourite word! Needless to say, we are stunned by how God has been opening up the doors for everything to happen so quickly.

So, for the rest of this year, our family will be here in Canada, with me on medical leave. If the surgery has good results and my recovery goes well we will return to Rwanda right after Christmas. We deeply appreciate the many people who are praying for us – here are a few specific requests:

- Success with the surgery on Wednesday, July 22. Peace of mind for all of us.
- Patience and wisdom during the recovery.
- Good adjustment for Caleb as it is a disappointment for him to miss a semester at his school in Kigali. At this point it looks like this fall he will study using an online curriculum.



Meeting the new baby of our colleague, Helene



Celebrating Easter with the Derksens and Mills

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