

# W5 on Missions

## Who... Karen and Colin Godwin

Colin was born in Belgium. His family eventually settled in Summerland, BC. Colin holds a B.A., M.A. (Theology) and M.Div. and is currently working on his doctorate from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague. Karen grew up in Ontario. She holds a B. Applied Science in Family Studies and a Master of Religious Education. They have four children: Isaac, Andrew, Natalie and Naomi.



## Where... Kigali, Rwanda

The Republic of Rwanda is a landlocked country in east-central Africa. Home to nearly 10 million people, Rwanda supports the densest population in Africa. Most engage in subsistence agriculture. Three-quarters of the population live below the international poverty line. Its capital and largest city is Kigali. Official languages: Kinyarwanda, French, English. The country has received considerable international attention due to its 1994 genocide in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed. Government: a republic. In 2008, Rwanda became the first country in history to elect a national legislature in which a majority of members were women. Rwanda is, as of November 2009, a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, making the country one of only two in the Commonwealth without a British colonial past.

**When...** In October 1995 the Godwins were appointed by CBM for service to Belgium. When the church in Belgium became self sustaining, they recognized God calling them to a new ministry. They have been in Rwanda since September 2008.

**What...** Following French language study, the Godwins settled into ministry in Belgium in 1997. They spent three years assisting the church plant in Jemeppe, Liège, before beginning a new church work on the east side of Liège. They then ministered for 8 years in this new area, working primarily in evangelism, discipling new believers and church planting. Colin and Karen Godwin now serve in Kigali, Rwanda in the area of Leadership Development.

## From October 2009 Newsletter (used by permission):

Both Colin and I face new challenges in the area of education this year. I began teaching French at Kigali International Community School (where our children attend) as there is great need for teachers. Though I've never taught

French, 12 years of learning it in Belgium serves me well. I came back to Kigali armed with French texts and curriculum, not knowing if, or how many, students I would have. Praise God for a wonderful teachers at our school who come mostly from the USA and Canada, and are one of the reasons we can stay in Rwanda with our children.

Colin is taking a lead role in the merging of the Baptist International Theological University, where he teaches, with two other Christian colleagues in Kigali. By God's grace the merger will be finished for January 2010. The goal is to work together with a larger student body to provide quality training for Christian workers in Rwanda, and move towards accreditation with the government.

## From December 2009 Newsletter (used by permission):

At the end of October, I decided to stop teaching French at our children's school. Managing two classrooms of a large spread of ages of children proved too much for me. Please be in prayer for finding a permanent replacement. Though it has been very difficult for me emotionally to quit this voluntary position because I was overly burdened by it, the great thing is I am free again to travel around Rwanda to see the different work and projects that Canadian Baptists are a part of. We have had two short-term teams from Northern Ontario, and Alberta... God has used these people to bless Rwandans. Jean Samvura, a Rwandan, leads our short-term teams.

Colin went to Kenya in October to negotiate the beginning of the M.A./D.Min. program he will lead in conjunction with Carey Theological College in Vancouver. He also went to Goma and witnessed the signing of a new Memorandum of Agreement with one of our historic partners in the Congo, and just returned from a week in Kenya preparing for the new Carey M.A./D.Min. program.

Colin goes to Prague, Czech Republic, January 23-30 to prepare for his doctoral defence. We have an education team here from January 17 to 29, led by CBM colleague Patrick Deneut. Then Colin will join CBM Mississauga staff on a trip to Goma again from February 1 to 3 to continue talks with the Congolese Baptists as to how we can help them.

The Rwanda Institute of Evangelical Theology (RIET) is the new name for the merged efforts of our Baptist International Theological University and its new partner, FATER (Faculté de Théologie Evangelique du Rwanda). The merger of these two key theological institutions in Rwanda will provide greater sustainability and strength as we seek to provide a contextualized Bible-based training for pastors and lay leaders. We are able to use our current campus in the centre of Kigali while plans for future building on the site are drawn up. Colin will continue to have a leading role in the merging of the two schools and the drafting of a missional curriculum for the new institution.

**Why...** To encourage believers in Rwanda and provide training for pastors and lay leaders.

**Lorna McCain**