

W5 on Missions

Who? Bruno & Kathleen Soucy

Bruno and Kathleen are currently members of the Journey Church, Moncton, NB. The Soucys studied agriculture at the University of Guelph. In addition, Bruno studied business and has worked in several roles in Agricultural Credit in Ontario, Regina SK and Atlantic Canada. Kathleen has additional studies in counseling and has worked in Pregnancy Resource Centres in Ontario, Regina and Moncton and as an area manager for the Canadian Cancer Society in NB. Both Bruno and Kathleen were part of the first African cohort of the Diploma in Integral Mission offered jointly by Carey Theological College and CBM. The Soucys have three children: Caroline, Laura, and Ben and four grandchildren: Maren, Nate, Madeleine and Nathaniel.

When? The Soucys joined Canadian Baptist Ministries in July 2006, arriving in Rwanda in September to support CBM activities with the Association of Baptists Churches in Rwanda (AEBR). In October 2013, Bruno and Kathleen accepted new roles as CBM Latin America Team Leaders.

Where? In preparation for ministry in Central and South America, the Soucys are currently studying Spanish in Costa Rica's capital city, San Jose. Costa Rica is located in Central America between Nicaragua and Panama.

What?

Kathleen writes: "Hola de Costa Rica! Bruno and I arrived early in November to San Jose, Costa Rica's capital and home to over half of the country's population! This is a noisy, busy, somewhat dangerous urban center and home of el Instituto de Lengua Española, an institution that has been teaching Spanish to missionaries for over 70 years! After seven years living and working closely with national staff in Rwanda to support the church's integral mission efforts, coming to this huge urban centre of San Jose to learn Spanish and prepare for new leadership roles to support CBM's partners, staff and ministry goals in Latin America - has been a dramatic change for us.

It has been a very humbling experience as we function with about a kindergarten language level; now able to describe our families, discuss the weather and describe locations – of course all in the present tense and with a huge emphasis on the first person singular! It is hard to envision the day when we will be required to speak with some level of professionalism with CBM partners in Latin America. For now we are excited to be meeting other people engaged in Latin American ministries. There is huge diversity of missional organizations represented, some with a small number of faithful workers and others with hundreds of people involved in church planting, business as mission, health ministries, work with children and youth and



**Bruno & Kathleen Soucy
Valentine's Day
in Costa Rica**

many working to support theological education of church leaders."

"It has been a great privilege to be a part of the meaningful work that CBM is committed to support churches in Canada and the outermost parts of the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We have experienced God's grace and sovereignty and grown more dependent on Him since we left Canada in 2006. We have learned so much from our Rwandan brothers and sisters who live faithfully and "God-dependent", in a society filled with distrust and poverty. We will continue to have a steep learning curve ahead as we seek to understand different cultures and the context of our church partners in Latin America.

Today as we struggle to remember Spanish verbs, what they mean and how to use them, we realise that language learning will be a long term project. This period of formal study will end in August this year. We hope to have a good foundation that will allow us to function as we head to Bolivia to work with CBM staff and partners there for the following year. We covet your prayers that we would retain what we learn and especially that we would be open to what God is teaching us through this time as we prepare to take on leadership responsibilities. Please pray for our staff in Bolivia, the Guthrie family, the Nacho family, Ivan Gutierrez, Joyce Hancock in Brazil and our Church partners in Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Argentina, Costa Rica and El Salvador."

"...and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Why?

"We are realising that language and cultural differences aside, people everywhere are finding life hard. Whether in Rwanda (all we have known outside of Canada) or where we are today, we need to ask of ourselves and others: Were you born here by accident? Does God like how you live? What do you think you have that can change that? What will you do in the place where you live? What would God want this to look like?"

Lisa Lohnes

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW