



Jonathan & Janice Mills

of Divinity (Acadia Divinity College) and is working on his Doctorate of Ministry degree (Acadia Divinity College). Ordained into Christian ministry in 1989, he has pastored in Nova Scotia, Toronto, Mississauga and Ottawa. The Mills have seven children.

When? CBM announced the Mills' appointment as Global Field Staff in December 2013.

Where? Rwanda is a landlocked East African country known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills" due to its green, mountainous landscape. The Mills live in Kigali, the capital and largest city of Rwanda with a population of more than one million. (wikipedia.org)

What? The Mills work in partnership with the Association des Églises Baptistes au Rwanda (AEBR). Janice is the Global Discipleship Coordinator for Short-Term Mission teams (STMs) and supports work with women's literacy, orphans and vulnerable children. Approximately 50% of women within the AEBR are illiterate due to the 1994 genocide which prevented families from sending their children to school. Since 2010, CBM has worked with the AEBR to provide literacy classes for women. Janice works closely with Laetitia, the AEBR's Director of Women's Literacy and Empowerment. "We have an exciting 2016 year planned with thirteen workshops in the different rural regions that will have training in family planning, women's issues and entrepreneurship.... It is amazing to see the joy on the women's faces as they gain the respect of their family and community." (Mills Family Update, November 2015) **Women's literacy in Rwanda is the mission project for the 2016 Great Canadian Bible Study.**

Janice shares: "(Short Term Mission teams) ... learn a lot from visiting Guardians of Hope villages but it also helps the GOH participants. They are often ostracized by the community because of the stigma of being HIV positive. Having *muzungus* (white people) in

Who? With a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education degree from Acadia University, Janice has worked as a teacher and as the Executive Director of Matthew House Ottawa. Jonathan has a Bachelor of Arts (Carleton), a Masters

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their home raises their status in society.... It gives them hope for the future that someone cares and is praying for them. Regular check-ups on each of these families is done by field staff and we are looking forward to the future for each of them. It is building partnerships like this that makes being the Global Discipleship Facilitator so very exciting. Many people question whether STMs make any difference in mission work. Maybe sending money would be better. But when you see the smiles on the faces and the joy in the hearts of both the team members and the nationals, one sees the importance of relationships in mission work. God uses us in ways that we cannot imagine and we need to be open to whatever He calls us to do." (Mills blog, June 13, 2015)

Rwanda has limited land mass yet its population is growing. The Rwandan government is very proactive to preserve farmland while creating communities and infrastructure to meet future needs. Jonathan works in partnership with the AEBR leadership in capacity building and governance to help meet such needs.

Jonathan writes: "Since last fall, I have started the task of getting important documents translated into English (the Constitution, Executive Committee minutes, the AEBR Policy Manual, the Strategic Plan, etc.). Using these documents, I have been trying to build a clear picture of the current state of the AEBR in order to discover challenges and opportunities for the future. I'm interested in the flow of authority and the way the executive interacts with management. In addition to this background work, I have prepared a summary document on good governance. And, I have been reading up on the cultural differences between Canada and East Africa in order to reflect on how these may impact our assumptions of the way governance ought to work." (Mills Blog, July 18, 2015)

Why? "Rwanda is not the same country it was 21 years ago. It isn't even the same as it was 5 years ago! The pace of change in this country is staggering. Out of the ashes of a devastating human tragedy, a new Rwanda is being built with careful attention to the importance of peace and reconciliation among tribal groups. And although the peace today is under the watchful eye of police and the military, we continue to pray for a strong, united and prosperous Rwanda where the Gospel will bring about lasting change in human hearts." (Mills blog, March 28, 2015)

Lisa Lohnes

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