



Jeff and Deann Carter, with sons Zachary and Matthew

Who? Jeff and Deann are both from Nova Scotia, and met while studying at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. They have two sons: Zachary has completed his first year at Crandall University, Moncton, New Brunswick, and Matthew is in Grade 6, beginning his first year of junior high school.

When? The Carters have been serving with Canadian Baptist Ministries for the past 14 years.

Where? Jeff and Deann serve with CBM in Europe, based in Prague, the Czech Republic.

What? Jeff is Youth Ministry Training Seminar Coordinator and Advisor for the European Baptist Federation (EBF), which is comprised of 52 nations in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. As part of his responsibilities, Jeff travels within Europe and to other countries, working with pastors and youth leaders.

The Carters were on home assignment from June through August, 2015. Zachary stayed behind in Canada to attend Crandall University, while the rest of the family returned to the Czech Republic. Matthew began his new role as a junior high student as they all adjusted to life without Zachary. Deann launched back into leading her Bible study group, and starting a crafting club in their home for ladies.

Jeff says, "I started my travel schedule with trips to Germany to meet Udo Rehman, the new secretary for German Baptist youth work, and to talk about Horizons." Horizons was created by Jeff ten years ago as part of his assignment with CBM, in partnership with the European Baptist Federation. He is the director of this training program for youth leaders primarily in the EBF. The program is also found in Canada, South America, the Caribbean, and in Africa. Horizons is available as a 24-module course through the internet, as well as through LIVE seminars and seminary courses. The program will be currently available in 12

languages and is guided by local mentors. (For more information: horizons@ebf.org.)

After being in Germany, Jeff attended the EBF Council in Sofia, Bulgaria, and the opening of the new Baptist Center, and met with friends leading the Horizons children's program there.

In the fall of 2015, Jeff travelled to Kazakhstan. "My visit to Kazakhstan was both rewarding and eye-opening. Not only did I have some time to teach, but I was able to have significant conversations with other students from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Then, I was off to Hungary for a Horizons LIVE weekend in the city of Debrecen to speak to 60 youth workers."

"What a time we had! I have not experienced such enthusiasm in other conferences, and the leadership has decided to translate the program into Hungarian. Forty-seven leaders from across 29 nations in the EBF stretching from north, south, east, and west Europe and the Middle East came together to embrace the topic, "Don't Burn out—Burn Brightly!" This topic was addressing the sometimes serious problem that leaders [for youth and children] can face in ministry. Volunteers especially struggle with balance."

Why? Jeff comments, "I could not help but marvel at the stories that the students shared with me about how difficult it is to meet to worship. The resiliency of faith, the passion to survive and to live out a life of devotion despite the incredible odds humbled me to my core. We are hoping that an offline version of Horizons might be of assistance, and are working towards this to train and equip youth workers."

Prayer Requests: **1.** Pray for the youth workers that carry out challenging work among countries in Central Asia. **2.** Pray for summer employment for Zachary and for him as he continues as a student at Crandall University in Canada in the fall. **3.** Deann continues to deal with ramifications from her bout with cancer; pray for healing. **4.** Pray for Jeff, as the demands of travel associated with Horizons and the EBF are many.

Helen Hopper

UBWMU/ABW Corresponding Secretary

Sources: Carter Family January 2016 Update, blog posts, and e-mail correspondence