



## cousens connection

*Avant*

July 25 2013

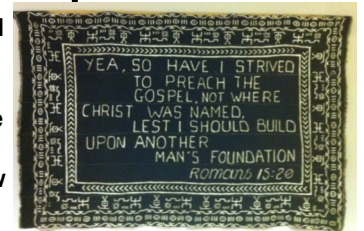
Volume 1, Issue 1

**In May God showed  
us the following  
verse...**

"It has always been my  
ambition to preach the  
gospel where Christ was  
not known, so that I would  
not be building on  
someone else's  
foundation."

Romans 15:20

**... It also turns out to  
be on the wall of the  
training center and a  
theme verse of  
AVANT Ministries!**



### Avant Ministries

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DEAR

"Come. Follow me"

April and I began 2013 attending an amazing missions conference called **URBANA** in St Louis, MO. It was an opportunity to take college students from our church and help them walk the journey of where God may be leading them. Little did we know that the Lord would also speak to us at this conference.

At one of the final sessions the ultimate challenge was given for those who sensed the Lord leading them into full time missions to stand. Both April and I stood and committed our



lives to **full time missions**. We challenged the college students to have a "take home piece" and in leading by example, our take away was to follow through with a mission called **Avant** (formerly Gospel

Missionary Union).

We arrived home and filled out a missions application to be obedient to the Lord and enter into this process with the one organization we both felt drawn toward. In the following months we walked the journey of finding references, conversing with Avant, and earnestly praying through what this might look like.

Eventually we were invited to attend their COP (Candidate Orientation Program) in July 2013 and readily accepted.

With much anticipation and prayer we shared with Emma (our oldest) what this process was all about and readied the family for an 8 hour journey to Avant Ministries headquarters (Kansas City, MO). It was an intense 2 weeks of training, discussions, interviews, and relationship building. We learned much about the ministry ethos of Avant and where God is at work in the world through this organization.

We have to admit that it was tough to not feel

God's direct call to a specific country when so many of our fellow candidates knew exactly where they wanted to serve. Yet, it was encouraging how many former missionaries shared with us that often times the place can become a distraction to the call.

Through our two weeks of COP we have felt confident in saying **YES** to the Lord using us wherever He may lead us in the world and desire to be **OBEDIENT** to His call for our family to follow Him!

We are excited to pursue this next step in our journey to see where the Lord may be leading us. We would value your partnership in prayer as we consider the many needs of the world and where God can use our gifts and strengths to best serve Him.

If you are interested in walking this journey with us, we would love to hear back from you!

In HIM,

*Dave & April*

*Emma- 8; Hailey- 5*

*Kylie- 3; Claire- 1*

"Because of Avant there will be developing churches where there is no church"

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