

DEVELOPING KINGDOM MAKERS N.O.W. (Not Of this World)

A case for the Cousens family working with Avant Ministries



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case statement

Generation N.O.W.



Meet Jonny Cash, the man in black. Meet the future ambassador of Mali to the United States. Meet the future legal consultant to the Mali government. Meet the next Geologist who desires to study minerals and influence one of the largest gold mines in Timbuktu, Mali.

Now imagine each of these University students meeting Jesus, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, advancing His Kingdom in every arena of their life. Marvel at the power of the Gospel moving through these students who desire to make an impact N.O.W. (Not Of this World)!

To us it's a simple solution... Attend a local Bible study, worship together, follow their family values, and hopefully be involved in a Christian campus ministry. But this is virtually impossible being that Mali is a country that is 98% Muslim. They do not know nor have they heard or witnessed a life that claims "with God all things are possible"

While the national church is existent in Mali and pastors are shepherding an average of 5 villages per person, we recognize that this generation, generation N.O.W. (not next), is lost and unnoticed. They can be reached in the next 10-20 year window while 2% of Mali remains non Muslim. Time is running out though and Generation N.O.W. (Not Of this World) longs to hear, receive and share the redeeming work of Jesus Christ!

why?

Out of our minds or "out of this world?"



"Are you out of your minds? You have 4 precious daughters, close family, a great home, friends, and healthy ministry within the local Church". Yet April and I are both missionary kids, and we have to recognize God has placed a passion for missions within us for a reason. All throughout our marriage we have asked the Lord to lead us and are committed to follow Him wherever and whenever He leads. Our goal is to live our lives here as residents of another kingdom and under one King!

We attended Urbana 2012 with the sole intent of helping college students navigate the direction of the Lord's leading in their lives. Little did we know that the Lord would speak to our hearts and move us into this new venture of missions with an organization called Avant. Through scripture, prayer, the fingerprints of God, godly counsel, and a true peace that "surpasses all understanding", we felt confident in saying Yes to serving the Lord overseas with Avant. But we didn't know where? So with wisdom from Avant leadership we decided to go on a vision trip to Mali. We were amazed at the various areas where God could use our family there for His purposes!

The Malian people are very relational and family oriented. Though poor, the use of technology is high and has great potential with young adults. Many university students desire to learn English as it is becoming the higher form of education. The men are deep thinkers and religion is an open conversation even in the Muslim culture. The woman desire to learn how to instill moral values and nurture their children and family. The children are everywhere and live simply with an innocence and respect of the family system.

who?

From choral shakers to Kingdom makers

About MALI...

Capital: Bamako (1.628 million)

Total Population: 15,968,882

The 13th poorest country in the world

Life expectancy: 55

98% muslim ... less than 2% evangelical

100,000 university students within 3 universities

Cell phones usage: 10.822 million (2011)

65% of its land is desert or semidesert

4/5 size of Alaska and landlocked

Natural resources are gold, uranium, livestock and salt



The main place within the church where you will find a university student or young adult is “cornered” in the choir loft. While they are passionate to worship, and certainly love to move, they are rarely involved in the life or leadership of the church... let alone living as ambassadors who are equipped to reach their peers with the life changing power of Jesus Christ!

We believe that the Lord is leading our family, along with a team of other missionaries, to invest in this generation of Malians and make disciples who make disciples. We hope to model a vision that is biblically based and clearly communicates what the Lord desires for His body, the Church. We are excited to implement the strategies of Short Cycle Church Planting (see appendix) within this next generation.

Our passion is to use the means of modern technology, creativity, worship, teaching and relationship building to reach into the 3 university campuses in Bamako, Mali. There are 100,000 university students within Bamako and this city feeds into the surrounding areas, villages, and cities. It even has the potential of impacting bordering nations. Acts 1:8 becomes an instant reality... “to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and even to the ends of the earth”

DL Moody once said “If you reach the city, you reach the nation... the cities are the cesspools of the nation”.

what?

Kingdom makers N.O.W.



This picture represents our dreams for ministering in Mali; to produce Kingdom making university students who are not of this world (N.O.W.).

If you compare this picture with that on the first page what do you notice?

- **There is a mass of people**

A small glimpse of heaven on earth and people advancing against the darkness... the body of Christ GROWING!

- **We (April and I) are not in the picture**

We do not want to be in the picture. We long to hold the camera in heaven and take this picture or have our girls take the picture when we are gone!

- **The nationals are expressing the body of Christ**

We desire to see university students leading, ministering and discipling... baptizing and obeying the words of Jesus "Follow Me"

- **The people mentioned in the picture on the first page aren't in this one**

Our hope is that those who are desiring to "go" and make a difference for Jesus with their careers, will do so with the power of the Holy Spirit leading them.

- **You can't see the faces of people**

We have no idea whose faces we will see and what expressions will represent their heart. We desire to minister to the needs of the heart and long to see the JOY and fruit of the Holy Spirit become their expression.

- **Our kids aren't in either of them!**

Our desire is to leave a legacy of impact that our girls will love Jesus regardless of where or what people group we serve on this earth!

how?

Faith raising

There is an old African parable told of a village whose main road was blocked by a tremendous fallen tree. The women fretted, and the men stared, wondering who among them was strong enough. Then, a wizened old man stepped forward, put his hand to the trunk, and pronounced, "It will take our whole village to move this tree." They all joined the elder, down to the youngest. Each doing their part, the giant tree was moved.

Mark Bruner
VP of Selection & Training
Avant Ministries

Would you consider a partnership with the Cousens family on this Kingdom mission to plant churches where the church isn't being developed?

Such partners will realize the importance and need for establishing a strong church planting movement in a nation where so few know Christ. They will be excited to see our family establish national communities of believers who are passionate to reach their own countrymen with the gospel.

They will rejoice when the Cousens' report how God is working through their partnership with Avant.

Prayer partners will receive regular communications through email and/or mail with current praises and requests for prayer.

We have established a website, blog and weekly prayer email database to keep you posted on all God is doing in this ministry!



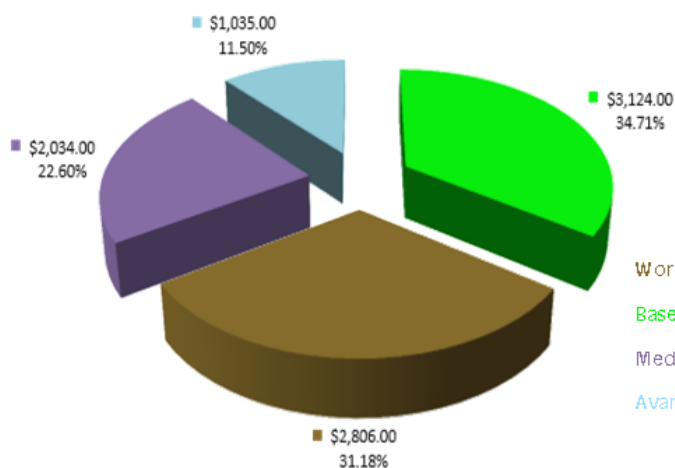
www.cousensconnection.com



Initial travel and relocation costs are also a need. Special gifts can be contributed to this specifically.

Automatic withdrawals are available for monthly donations. Also, non-cash gifts are accepted (bonds, etc.).

Cousens Monthly Support Schedule



Ministry	\$ 2,806.00
Personal	\$ 3,124.00
Benefit	\$ 2,034.00
Admin	\$ 1,035.00

Work Funds, Home assignment, MK Education & Care, regional admin

Base salary, child supplement, Housing

Medical, Life, Retirement

Avant Admin & care

\$8,999.00

Strategy Specifics

Affirmations for Short-Cycle Church Planting

“Short-Cycle Church Planting reduces the time a church planter/nurturer needs to spend in one location and frees him or her up to move on to another location. Even in its infancy, Short-Cycle Church Planting has proven to be effective in starting churches. My hope is that it will exceed all my expectations!”

Fred Smith, Ph.D.
Director,
School of World Missions
Toccoa Falls College

“The Short-Cycle Church Planting approach by Avant is one of the most innovative strategies I have seen in missions today. I am confident this Intensified effort of a well-equipped and well-trained team will be richly blessed by God.”

Dr. Ron Blue
Dallas Theological Seminary
President Emeritus, CAM Int'l.

“The 21st Century demands new church-planting philosophies, models and strategies. Avant has courageously and competently addressed a changing world through Short-Cycle Church Planting.”

Dr. Tom Steffen
Biola University

What Is Short-Cycle Church Planting?

Short-Cycle Church Planting is a team-based approach to church planting. We aim to develop mature, reproducing churches led by nationals within five to eight years of arrival in the field.

Ultimately, it is about God's power flowing through teams.

With this approach, every element of the church-planting process, from language learning to evangelism to leadership development, is undertaken simultaneously and accomplished as efficiently as possible within our faith context.

Short-Cycle Church Planting doesn't look the same in every field.

Flexibility is built into this strategy so that teams can adjust to the cultural and political environments of a particular country.

Whatever the specific means, the goal is to establish and develop a church as quickly as possible so that, with whatever time God gives us in a field, lives are transformed by the power of Jesus Christ.

About Avant Ministries



Avant Ministries has been making an eternal difference for more than a century. From the beginning, we have had a focus on church planting, with the goal of taking the gospel to unreached areas of the world.

Avant was the first evangelical mission to enter Ecuador in South America and the Republic of Mali in West Africa.

With dependence on God, Avant is moving into new territories with new techniques, sending more teams and strategically partnering with national believers who can carry on the work and multiply the results.

Intricately linked to our past with a fresh vision toward the future, God continues to bless Avant and our 300 missionaries. We trust that He will continue to use us to carry His name to the lost people of the world.

Avant Mali Ministry



Since the early 1900s, Avant has been pioneer church planting to reach the people of Africa. Today that involves reaching out to university students, discipling local pastors, and training a new generation how to reach out to their Muslim neighbors with the love and truth of Christ in this poor region. We have a heart for the peoples of West Africa to come to know Christ. Do you?

Despite the Muslim majority, Malian evangelical Christians (who number less than 1% of the population) experience religious freedom. Avant has been involved in the country since the late 1890s and there is now a strong Malian church association. Despite this, there is a lack of trained church leaders. The average pastor often has up to five congregations to care for simultaneously.

Most Malians are subsistence farmers and fishermen and live on less than \$2 a day. Poverty doesn't deter their warm spirit of hospitality though. Malians are generally a fun-loving and outgoing people. Unfortunately, many of them struggle with literacy, making strong oral biblical teaching even more important. There is an increasing number of young people seeking college education and questioning the status quo. They are searching for freedom and desire to make a difference in the world.

Right now there is an opportunity to disciple university students in the city of Bamako in hopes of partnering with them to plant churches in the more unreached areas outside the city center.

Organizations in support



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