



COUSENS FAMILY



DAKAR, SENEGAL

Being Creative . Bringing Christ . Bridging Culture . Building Clarity

The most western tip of the second largest continent a developing city bustles with energy and enthusiasm. Global cultures and economies collide. The everyday chaos of taxis, markets, and languages fills the sandy, dust filled air. A rare moment of peace can be found in a *pirogue* (fishing boat) on the ocean, where the country's main export continues to thrive despite the infringement of global competitors.

In the bustle of the city stands a university student waiting with a crowd of peers to access an ATM to pay for his final PhD documents. It's been over three hours. The group of peers represent 6 different African nations who have traveled thousands of miles aspiring for new beginnings. Finally, the student walks away from the ATM, grateful to Allah for his family and their investment toward his future. Proud of himself and where this degree may take him he ends his day, feeling accomplished and relieved. Yet the relief won't last long as an overwhelming fear and void creep into his heart. The doubt becomes a new reality. Where will it lead to next, and how does he find clarity and purpose for what lies ahead?

A metropolitan area Dakar, Senegal is home to 2.45 million people with 95% of the nation being Muslim and 4% catholic. The culture is known for its *teranga* (hospitality), as the Wolof people make up 40% of the nation. With over twenty public and private universities in Dakar and thousands of industries and businesses, young professionals and university students from all over W.Africa are eager to settle and make a difference within this thriving city. The question is - who will show them and where will the hope of Jesus be brought to them?

the COUSENS FAMILY

Dave, April, Emma, Hailey, Kylie & Claire

A family of 6 called by God to creatively bring Christ into a cross cultural city (Dakar) where a future generation seeks clarity and hope.



Missionary kids themselves Dave & April met at Moody Bible Institute with a desire to enter youth ministry within the local church. Ministry to teens led them to various churches in the midwest, and their family grew with the blessings of 4 daughters. After 13 years they found their passions shifting toward making a difference in the lives of college and career students, while also ministering cross culturally.

Their next steps led them to join Avant (Kansas City). After building a support team and completing language school in France, they headed to their first assignment in Bamako, Mali. After 18 months, due to unrest, the family relocated to Dakar, Senegal (2017) continuing the similar work of bringing Christ to univ. students and young professionals.



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in reaching Dakar



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Having lived in Dakar for several years the Cousens family recognize just how difficult it is to bring Christ into this region of West Africa. The city has few evangelical churches, of whom most are led by expat nationals from other African nations. Folk-Islam traditions, beliefs, and values influence culture, family, politics, and the everyday pace of the city. Yet, unlike many Muslim nations, the diversity and complexity of the city allows for open discussions and learning about Jesus' life and teachings.

The financial costs are high for a family like the Cousens to live in Dakar. The city is economically polarized and the average way of life is relative to western metropolitan living. The highest living costs come from food, electricity, housing and ongoing maintenance of unreliable products. Within Avant, Dakar is one of the highest fields to minister in.

The prayer and spiritual support is vital. The next gen are willing to have Bible studies and ongoing relationships with the Cousens. Engrained in an honor-shame culture of tradition many honor Allah but disconnect with the reality of Jesus and a hope filled life! Without prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit this ministry will prove ineffective.