

## **Russell and Donna Lovett Biography**

Russell comes from a Nazarene family originally from West Allis, Wisconsin. Donna grew up in Portsmouth, Ohio, where she came to Christ at the age of 10 and joined the Church of the Nazarene when she was 11 years old. Russ and Donna met during their freshman year at Olivet Nazarene University, both having sensed a call to serve as missionaries before their college years. Following Russell's graduation from Nazarene Theological Seminary, they began their missionary service, working in Italy (four years) and France (eight years).

Sensing a renewed direction from the Lord to train pastors, Russell and Donna returned to the United States for Russ to pursue doctoral studies. During the next 11 years, Russ taught full time at Olivet Nazarene University in the Division of Religion and Donna served on the staff in various positions (international student advisor, transfer coordinator and assistant to the registrar).

In 2001, the Africa Region asked the Lovetts to assist in the establishment of a degree-level program for the French-speaking countries of Africa. Russell is involved in the development of curriculum for the various levels of ministerial studies and the training of teachers for the Extension Education Program. Donna has served as the coordinator for the Child Sponsorship Program. The Lovetts have served in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; Johannesburg, South Africa; Cotonou, Bénin; and Kigali, Rwanda, since their arrival in Africa in September 2002.



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