

W5 on Missions

Who? Ruth Munyao

Ruth grew up in a small rural area in Kenya where agriculture was a very vital part of the people's livelihood. Ruth's family not only instilled in her Christian values, but also respect for human life and a strong work ethic. Ruth has a Master's degree in environmental development. Ruth has worked with a number of international and local NGOs [non-government organizations] where she gained extensive experience in development work as both a staff member and consultant.

When? Ruth joined CBM's national field staff in 2008.

Where? Ruth Munyao lives in Machakos, a town in Kenya, 64 kilometres southeast of Nairobi. It is a major rural centre with a rapidly growing population. Machakos is small enough that one can walk throughout it in less than an hour. Machakos is surrounded by hilly terrain and a high number of family farms. (kenyabook.com)

What? Ruth serves with CBM as Senior Food Security Specialist in Africa, specifically with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan. She coordinates the CBM and Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects with the African partners. Food insecurity is one of the most critical issues facing Sub-Saharan Africa. CBM works to enhance sustainable conservation agriculture in order to strengthen local churches and communities. "Ruth brings her expertise in community development, program design, monitoring and evaluation as well as commitment to integral mission, and deep faith in God's grace to the role." (cbmin.org)

Ruth comments: "Some of the main challenges that people I work with face are the extreme climate changes which have discouraged the farmers despite the trainings that are given on improved crop husbandry practices. We face major setback as farmers work on climate change adaptation practices, sometimes in vain. We need integrated interventions to make farmers more resilient to the shocks of climate change. Women contribute over 70% of the food produced in Africa without much recognition from their families, their church and their governments. Together with other NGO networks, we still struggle to bring into light the plight of the African woman." (fivekennys.blogspot.ca – September 3, 2014)

When asked how she had seen God at work, Ruth replies, "God has been our protector and shield amongst some of our field staff who have been through years of war and uncertainties. There are times such farmers left their homes



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to sleep in the forest area so that they escape the wrath of rebels as they trekked across the land in eastern Congo. Being a tropical forest area with lots of rain, families with small babies suffered sleepless nights which resulted to malaria and many diseases. God is faithful because Christians across Canada and Africa prayed, we saw victory at the beginning of the year as rebels withdrew, calm returned to the land and families went back to their homes.

North Eastern province of Kenya is a desert area with little and most times, no water is available for domestic use as well as for their livestock. Since time immemorial, Kenya has been known as a water scarce area. However in October last year, in Turkana county, northern Kenya, two powerful water aquifers were discovered with so much water (they say enough water to sustain Kenya for the next 70 years) out of nowhere. How else are we going to see God at work if not with such miracles?" (fivekennys.blogspot.ca – September 3, 2014)

Pray for Ruth as she shares her joy and love for people in this important ministry of food security. May her education and experience coupled with her passion continue to be used to bring relief, healing and hope in the name of Jesus. Pray that Ruth will continue to receive the wisdom, discernment, strength and stamina she needs. Pray for peace in Africa. Pray for families who have members with terminal diseases and may not access medical care. Pray for appropriate interventions to hasten the climate change adaptation in the region. Pray especially for rains to help produce enough food.

Why? Ruth says: "My passion is to have a family become food secure and stop living at the mercy of someone else's 'pocket'. The verse in John 15:8a, 'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear MUCH fruit.....' tells us not just to do things casually (which everyone is doing) but to bear "much" fruit. This verse encourages me to think objectively, live independently and work with the spirit of "above average" without giving room to mediocrity. My joy is to see a smile on a mother's face as her children get enough food to eat and sustain their small bodies. My joy is in mentoring the young people who work as field supervisors and see them take charge of their lives as they lead communities to great transformation." (fivekennys.blogspot.ca – September 3, 2014)

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