

W5 on Missions



André Sibomana

Who?

André Sibomana serves as National Field Staff with Canadian Baptist Ministries. In 2006 he graduated from Rwanda National University with a BA. He has completed the Diploma in Integral Missions, a joint program integrating Theological and Development courses through CBM and Carey Theological College. He is also a graduate from the Rwanda Institute of Evangelical Theology with a Theology degree and is currently completing a Master of Business Administration at Mount Kenya University.

André is married to Mary Therese and they have five young children: four girls and one boy. André says: “I get my true joy when I am working in the community, I feel happy when I see a poor person make progress in his life, I feel uncomfortable and sad when I see the human dignity despised because they are my neighbors, they are like me, they feel pain as I do. I feel diminished because they are part of myself; they are part of my joy!” (fivekennys.blogspot.ca)

Where?

Rwanda is a sovereign state in central and east Africa, located a few degrees south of the Equator. Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her people continue to recover from the devastation and trauma of the 1994 genocide.

When?

André officially joined CBM in 2011, although he has been involved since 2007 in many partnerships between the Association of Baptists Churches in Rwanda (AEBR) and CBM including Guardians of Hope, Children of Hope and Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

What?

André currently serves with CBM in Rwanda as leader of the AEBR-CBM community development team. He has also served as the Integral Mission Coordinator for Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. André has effectively used his studies to help the AEBR review and evaluate its organizational structure while working with the church leadership to discern how AEBR can overcome issues around planning, accountability and transparency.

André comments: “The challenges I face while ministering with CBM are relating to cultural and work environment background, where there are some unbalanced expectations between Rwandan church partners and CBM in terms of values, sense of Christianity, and performance. However, though there are those differences, the Word of God, the Bible is a good reference to determine the standard Christian values and ethics... I am convinced that God is at work in my ministry because I see transformation and changes in the lives of people. God is speaking into the heart of leaders and they understand the meaning of integral mission, and they are fully convinced that this is the initial way through which God has intended to bring full/holistic salvation to His people. Leaders now believe that life in Christ is full and is possible.” (fivekennys.blogspot.ca)

André’s prayer requests include: “Please pray for me to have more wisdom, discernment and strength: As a young person, a husband and father; a responsible person of my family, I may have my own aspirations... and this can create unbalance between ministry and my family. Pray for my family: for my children as they study and grow older, to be humble and God-fearing. My wife is not employed; this is creating a feeling of under estimation to her and a gap in a way of understanding things. She graduated from a theological seminary; she is passionate for the ministry as well.” (fivekennys.blogspot.ca)

Why?

“Based on the scripture in Luke 4:18-19, I understand how the mission of Jesus is the one left to the local church today. The local church is best fitted to bear witness to the love of God. The salvation through Jesus is offered holistically and the local church should always consider this integral mission. I understand that the true love of God should be displayed to my neighbor. The local church should transform the lives of the communities in a holistic way and through integral mission, the proclamation of the word should go with demonstration through deeds.... CBM, through integral mission, incarnates the true gospel; the gospel that has a meaning and sense both today and for the future. Personally, the integral mission makes the gospel sustainable and valuable. I feel confident in what I believe; I do not need to speculate in order to explain my faith. My joy is that I believe in a full gospel that can be proclaimed and demonstrated. This aspect matches with my sense of true love that intends to bring transformation into my neighbor’s life. Ministering with CBM is half job and half passion, because through this ministry I fulfill and get satisfaction in what God called me to be.” (fivekennys.blogspot.ca)

Lisa Lohnes

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW