

Spotlight on CBM

CBM photo, with thanks to Randy Vanderveen



André Sibomana
and the Canadian Baptist Ministries
Africa Team

Canadian Baptist Ministries
Africa Team Leader
André Sibomana (far right)
stands with others on the
CBM Africa staff team.
Front row, left to right:
Gato Munyamasoko,
Polisi Kivava Baudouin,
and Darrell Bustin.
Back row, left to right:
Laura Muema,
and Laura Lee Bustin.

by Ruth Anna Dana

André Sibomana, serving as the Canadian Baptist Ministries Africa team leader, continues his ministry of coordinating and encouraging the global and national field staff's outreach of empowering the

African church partners. Through leadership development, skills training, and project support, pastors are equipped to minister holistically and expand their

demonstration of the gospel. "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2, NASB).

At the beginning of October, André travelled with his colleague, Gato Munyamasoko, accompanied by youth leaders from partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Kenya. They joined with Baptist youth in Juba, South Sudan, where those young people participated in the training session about peace and reconciliation. Their generation, victims of political and ethnic conflicts, having learned conflict management skills, desire to serve their communities as catalysts of peace. The youth leaders launched

the Africa Youth Peace Forum. Pray for South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as each have an election planned for December 2023.

Later in October, in Kigali, Rwanda, André, along with CBM staff Gato, Darrell Bustin, and Brenda Halk, completed the second training session on integral mission in the workplace. The plan developed for 2024 by 28 selected church leaders from South Sudan, DR Congo, and Kenya addresses how to best train and encourage others to serve in their professional career or workplace through living out their Christian faith, Monday to Saturday.

In South Sudan, farmers are always facing the challenges of floods during the rainy season and drought during the dry season. CBM Relief and Development Specialist for Africa Polisi Kivava Baudouin has been coaching food security and livelihood projects. Gifts from Canadian donors



André and Therese Sibomana

Photo courtesy of CBM

are helping refugees from South Sudan who are returning after having lost their homes and crops during the recent civil war. Polisi, with the CBM leadership, assists partners, specifically the Faith Evangelical Baptist Church of South Sudan, to plan for projects in 2024. Polisi asks, "Let us pray that the projects they select meet the needs of beneficiaries under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God's name."

Each member of the CBM Africa team has a specific task while serving alongside the five African denominational partners of the Gisenyi Covenant Advisory Committee. Two new partners were added in 2023: the Baptist Convention of Togo and the Liberian Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention. André Sibomana travels to meet with and has ongoing communication with each of these partner organizations. The ministry in Africa is very much one of teamwork: André and the CBM staff seek to reproduce good leadership in the national workers.

Another aspect of André's role is supporting Canadian church partnerships and facilitating SENT teams in their Praxis studies. CBM's Praxis scholarship program provides master's-level students at Canadian Baptist seminaries with opportunities for global, short-term mission learning and engagement. On the local level, André's wife Therese has begun serving in a pastoral role at a new, steadily growing church in the suburbs of Kigali, Rwanda. Three of their five children attend university and the younger two continue studies in a boarding school. Let us continue to partner with the Sibomana family through prayer.

Sources: CBM staff updates, CBM Prayerline, and the 2023–2024 CBM Hopeful Gifts for Change catalogue.