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POLISI KIVAVA BAUDOIN

Africa Relief and Development Specialist,
Canadian Baptist Ministries



Polisi Kivava Baudouin, Canadian Baptist Ministries national field staff, took on the role as the relief and development specialist for the Africa team in 2019. At the time, he did not know that supervising food security and development projects would hit so close to home as he and his family also live with the fear of attack among the vulnerable, living in his home city of Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Alongside the local Baptist partners, Polisi has organized assistance to the 100,000 people living in the refugee camps. The war and increasing violence in Eastern DRC brought death and destruction when a rebel bomb was launched in one camp. The humanitarian organizations were already overwhelmed with the needs of those suffering with harsh conditions and food shortages. Like the apostle Paul, believers in Jesus recognize Christ’s power in distress and infirmities. “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9a, KJV).

Many others who suffered in Sudan and Kenya express gratitude for help provided through CBM during the devastating flood season. An established food assistance project was available to also serve members of CBM’s partner in Kenya, Africa Christian Church & Schools. At present (January to June), it is the beginning of the dry season in the Upper Nile State of South Sudan

when the harsh sun and heat cause the soil to crack and produce little. Farmers, with the help of CBM, have been taught conservation agriculture to produce food through kitchen gardens which require less

water. Polisi desires to promote the Village Savings & Loan Associations to give farmers access to funds for the purchase of seeds and other needs. He states that, “This is a tough task which requires patience to change the mindset from humanitarian action to livelihood and self-reliance.” A similar project in Rwanda is successfully progressing.

In October of 2019, the Gisenyi Covenant Advisory Committee signed a five-year agreement. This covenant, signed by CBM and four of its Baptist church partners from D. R. Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Kenya, was meant to increase a shared engagement with CBM. (An additional church partner joined, as of 2021.) Beginning in January of 2025, this worthy agreement of collaboration is renewed for the next five years as the Nairobi Accord. CBM

partners with these five local church groups through training, support, resources, and mutual learning. The CBM Africa team has launched a program called the Partner Staff Capacity Building Training. A meeting in October involved 30 people from six countries.

The various topics presented in this article will prompt us to pray. Added prayer requests include praying for political stability in Kenya. Churches in Rwanda ask for perseverance in ministry: government regulations introduced this past fall led to the closure of many church buildings. Pray also for provision, good health, and safety for the staff of CBM’s Africa team and their families.

A sentiment expressed by Polisi in his June 2024 CBM ministry update encourages us to be faithful by partnering in prayer. He says, “I always feel encouraged to know that you are praying for me. And when I see the sign of gratitude on the faces of the people that we serve, I understand that God is hearing our prayers and using you and us to achieve his ministry. You are bringing real change and hope in a broken world.”

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: *cbmin.org*, *CBM Prayerline*, *Kivava Baudouin CBM ministry updates (Oct. 2023 and June 2024)*, *Sibomana CBM ministry update (June 2024)*.



Canadian Baptist Ministries Executive Director Jennifer Lau (third from right) celebrates signing the Nairobi Accord with CBM’s African church partners. The accord signifies a continuation of the “shared commitment to build capacity and live out God’s mission in the region together.”

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