



**André Sibomana**  
 Canadian Baptist Ministries  
 Africa Team Leader

We find André Sibomana, as Canadian Baptist Ministries' Africa team leader, active in ministry from Kigali, Rwanda. Like all of us, he found confinement during the pandemic to be tiresome as he was used to travelling and coaching church partners face-to-face and overseeing community development programs in several African countries. The Lord's promise in Jeremiah 17:7 continues to guide him in ministry: "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is" (KJV).

His wife Marie-Therese and family are a behind-the-scenes support for André. On a family level, it has been a challenge for everyone to decide the



best scenario for better protection against COVID-19. With a measure of control established within the country, the Sibomanas' three older children returned to boarding school and the two younger ones are attending day school.

In regular contact with his CBM ministry partners, André is developing solutions to support the Association of Baptist Churches of Rwanda (AEBR). In Rwanda, only nine of the AEBR's 200 churches were able to remain open during COVID restrictions. Though there were no offerings to pay the pastors, the suffering congregants shared what little they had, "the widow's mite," to feed other families. The AEBR collaborated with CBM's COVID Relief Project to assist 48 retired pastors and 38 widows of former pastors. In his prayer for Africa, André exemplifies his dependence on the Lord: "... we know and believe that you love this land and our people and you have a good plan for healing and restoration. You are using different people in your restoration including the CBM team in Africa."<sup>1</sup>

John Chan, director of international partnerships for CBM, describes André as a team player who values cooperation and collaboration. André directs, empowers, and assists Africa field staff Polisi Kivava Baudouin, Gato Munyamasoko, and Darrell and Laura Lee Bustin. Nine years after joining the CBM team, he now acts as its leader to be the bridge that straddles the cultural lines between Canada and Africa. His educational background and training of integral mission, theology, community development management, financial management, agriculture, and livelihood and organizational leadership and governance equip André for the task of rebuilding the churches and expanding outreach. Carla Nelson,

Canadian Baptist Ministries' Africa liaison and educational specialist, states that there are already a few hopeful signs: "the border between Rwanda and Congo is open for essential workers, the Congolese partner CBCA [the Baptist Church in Central Africa] is meeting in their General Assembly and the Bustins are back in full swing (within COVID limits)."

**Pray For:**

- Rev. Emmanuel and the other AEBR leaders as they seek to help their churches reopen. The denomination is facing severe financial difficulties, starting from the local church and pastor level all the way up to the head office.
- The Gisenyi Covenant Advisory Committee which meets monthly via video conference to encourage more multilateral initiatives where CBM and its African partner churches can share resources and experiences. As the churches seek healing and hope, may these countries see more leaders with a passion for serving the African people with honesty and integrity.



In March 2020, André travelled to Togo to meet leaders of the Baptist convention in Togo and of the Baptist seminary that trains students from Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, and Burkina Faso.

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: 1. CBM Prayerline September 1, 2020. Also June 2020 Tidings; www.cbmin.org; CBM Calling (Facebook); Bustins' November 2020 prayer letter; Sibomana March 2020 CBM newsletter; and email with Carla Nelson.