



Darrell & Laura Lee Bustin

The Lord is using Darrell and Laura Lee Bustin in Rwanda through Darrell’s spiritual gifting of teaching and pastoral training and Laura Lee’s administrative skills. They express that the rich experiences, relationships, and growth exceed the sacrifices of living far from family and friends at “home.” They practise Psalm 37:4, which says, “Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (ESV).



CBM

This global field staff couple work with Canadian Baptist Ministries, and demonstrate the “ministry of presence,” spending time with

people, hearing their stories, and sharing a bit of life together to impact lives in unexpected ways in the unpredictable, ever-changing events of life. Having lived in Rwanda since 2012, they are immersed in all parts of life there: births, marriages, illnesses, and people with financial needs for housing, medicine, and food. Laura Lee says that, like other CBM staff, she and Darrell are simply “trying to serve God the same way that people in Canada try to minister in their own situations.”

Along with the flexibility needed as they daily seek to bring about transformation through sharing Christ’s love, they ask for prayers for safety and protection in travel as they drive to all corners of Rwanda to be present in the lives of others.

The Bustins were originally attracted to CBM because of the organization’s approach that values partnership with national denominations. In the “ministry of giving,” they invest in lives through training national leaders. The

Emerging Leaders Initiative brings together twenty committed young adults, a mix of men and women, with the goal of being increasingly capable leaders in their churches. The Timothy Project, mentioned at cmbustinblog.blogspot.com, allows Darrell to be involved in another project sponsored by the Danish Baptists for the development of church leadership.

The Bustins ask for prayer for the leadership of the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (AEBR), especially for Rev. Emmanuel, its legal representative (executive director) as the AEBR navigates through many new government regulations. Pray for Darrell and Laura Lee’s CBM colleagues, Africa Team Leader André Sibomana, Peace and Reconciliation Specialist Gato Munyamasoko, and the newest team member, Polisi Kivava Baudouin, who works as relief and development specialist.

Darrell and Laura Lee invest in the lives of Canadians through connecting with their supporters by home assignment visits and meaningful, informative communication from the field. Under the capable leadership of Laura Lee and André, SENT teams arriving from Canada receive a full overview of ministry in Rwanda. These short-term mission team workers are plugged into programs and projects which are already running out of the local Rwandan Baptist churches. The impact of the teams is not just something that happens for a couple of weeks, but, rather, lasts for a long time into the future.

How can the Bustins’ ministry affect Baptists here in the Maritimes? We continue to pray for requests at home and those sent to us from around the world, and also consider sacrificial giving. When we talk about the increased cost of living in 2020, consider the financial needs of overseas workers as their costs of ministry continue to rise. We can encourage emerging leaders among us, like Bronwyn Bustin, Darrell and Laura Lee’s daughter, who, having completed her BA in Education and English Literature at Crandall University, Moncton, New Brunswick, is now writing the children’s pages for *Tidings Magazine*.



Participants and facilitators of the Emerging Leaders Initiative, which met twice in 2019. The goal is that these women and men will step into leadership roles in the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda.

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: www.cbmin.org, September 2019 CBM Bustin’ with News CBM newsletter, and www.cmbustinblog@blogspot.com.