



CBM

*embracing a broken world
through word & deed*

Winter 2018

MINISTRY UPDATE

Rev. Andre Sibomana in Africa



Christmas greetings from Rwanda

Greetings to you from a Country of a thousand Hills that is Rwanda, a country that went through a thousand problems, but actually with a thousand hopes and smiles. As we reflect on and head to Christmas, I want to thank you for having shared this Journey of Mission with me since 2011. Your prayers and financial support enabled me to offer the best in the mission field, where I have served as Integral Mission Coordinator in Rwanda. There, I was privileged to welcome you in Rwanda through SENT (STM) visits and we shared stories and walked around with you visiting projects and communities that have been impacted by CBM development work. For the last 5 years, I was specifically providing support and overseeing all the programming conducted by the CBM church partner in Rwanda. That is the Association of Baptist Church of Rwanda (AEBR), as the director of Community Development. Your prayers and encouragement have helped me to grow into more understanding and responsibilities. You may be aware that as of September 2018, I have been appointed to serve as the CBM Africa Deputy Team Leader, where I will be working within a broader perspective with all CBM Africa partners' churches, providing support in the area of CBM programming (projects), encouraging the CBM field staff team but also overseeing partnerships initiatives. This is the time where I need more of your support both financial and prayers than before, because the scope of work has increased and I will need to travel more to reach our communities within CBM Africa partner churches. They are the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (AEBR), Baptist Communities of Central Africa (CBCA) in DR Congo, Africa Christian churches & School (ACC&S.) in Kenya , Uganda Christian

Lawyers fellowship (UCLF) in Uganda, and Faith Evangelical Baptist church of South Sudan (FEBAC).

Please pray for my family as well, whom I will be leaving behind for several weeks, especially our children who are growing teenagers, and who need more guidance and encouragement in their education. Also join all of us as a Field Team to extend prayers to the leadership and communities of CBM church partners in Africa such as FEBAC in South Sudan and CBCA in DR Congo, as they seek to better serve God's people in the midst of political conflicts and other social economic brokenness.

Africa Leadership Exchange (ALE)



From the right:
Rev. Dr Aaron
Kenny (CBM),
Polisi Kivava
(CBCA), Rev
Dr Jeremiah

Ngumo(ACC&S), Rev Jeremiak Riok (FEBAC) and Ms Ernestine Kamarora from AEBR) who took over my former position in AEBR

As I conclude my responsibilities with the Baptist church of Rwanda (AEBR), I received the privilege to keep my seat in the Africa Leadership exchange conference that was hosted in Rwanda for the 3rd time, at the end of October. I was introduced to the participants by Rev. Aaron Kenny to the leaders from 4 CBM Africa partner's churches who laid their hand and commissioned me into the new role and responsibilities.

Orientation for my new role and Responsibilities in Kenya



Going through
some archive
with Erica
Kenny

In November, I
traveled to
meet the Africa
Team Leaders
to get

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orientation on my new role and responsibilities. It was a good opportunity to have a brief but wider view of CBM's work in Africa and I also learned a lot about the CBM partnership history in Africa. It has been a good time working closely with Ernestine Kamarora who replaced me as the AEBR new development Director. She is a brilliant young woman, who has been serving and managing projects in AEBR for 6 years. For October and November, I was mostly coaching and mentoring her in her new role and responsibilities. I am very confident she will do good job. By the beginning of December, I handed over all the department portfolios to her, an event that was witnessed by all staff and the Legal Representative of AEBR



Advent season Vs farming season



In rural Africa communities a "Season" is always tied to agriculture because the small holder farmer's livelihood depends to

the seasons. Life for both land farmers and pastorates depends on rainfall patterns.

The climate change has become a reality, and it is affecting the backbone of the rural small holder farmer's economy that is agriculture. During the season heading to December, the central and eastern Rwanda did not receive rains that they were expecting, and almost all seasonal crops in those areas failed.

One of the "must to do" things as I was coaching my successor included to take her "in the field", in the community to be introduced to the beneficiaries but also to the work that is being done. One of the things that amazed her is how despite the issues related to the climate

change, the farmers are building resilience strategies such watering and small scale irrigation for their crops.



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us remember the ultimate reason of the Christmas season by extending our prayers

and standing with those who live in extreme social economic brokenness and who strive to get out of there. May the Shalom from Emmanuel be upon them. Amen.

Let me use this occasion to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year- 2019

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Thank you so much for your continued support, both Prayer and Financial.

If you wish to become a Partner in Mission, please contact Barbara Keys at: bkeys@cbmin.org or you can use the address and phone number listed below.

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