

# WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH IN CAMEROON

THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A MISSIONARY IN ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY;  
NOT ONLY THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON PROBLEMS BUT ALSO ON THE EXPLOIT  
TO SEND OTHER AFRICAN MISSIONARIES

Pastor DAVID KAJILA

Panama, January 2012

# TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I: CONCEPT OF MISSION VISION

a) AFRICA

b) CAMEROON

CHAPTER II : MISSION PREPARATION

CONCLUSION

## INTRODUCTION

Being in God's heart, the mission is undoubtedly a priority in church nowadays. It is even God's breath. In case the outcomes of the missions or the history of missions could be visible, however, there should be many questions to address:

How can we now evaluate the influence of this mission in Africa? We must recognize that the continent is experiencing economic and political problems which disrupt stabilization and the implementation of great programs of mission or local societies.

Major challenges must be overcome by the African church as part of the mission. Having set up the structures that met only former needs of the environment, data have changed these days. The increasing need of the population in particular and that of the community at large raises urgent problems to be addressed in a special way.

The results can be doubled or tripled if the emphasis is put on equipment, the care for the African missionary as well as the sensitization of the local church on the awareness of the mission mandate of the church.

Today's great challenge is for African missionaries to be accepted as such by their own African brothers and sisters because of the legacy of white missionaries who are more trusted than black ones. Therefore, on the spot there is a clear relationship between the mission or missionary and a white man, that is, when Africans are talked about a missionary, they expect a white man, not a black one.. There is need for the African missionary who has been sent to have God's call, to be full of determination, to be anointed, to have a firm faith, to be courageous and to be a man of prayer because of what he has to face while on mission (rejection or contempt). Besides, he should know people's cultures in order to cope with the one that does not offend the gospel.

The last challenge is the cultural one because the mission that takes place in a foreign country or in another region assumes an intra cultural aspect. Thus, an African missionary who has to carry out his duties in another place should know that:

1. He is a foreigner where he has to be on duties;
2. He has not been called by the people with who he is going to work. That is why there is need for him to become part of the community on the spot in order to fit within the scope of work;
3. He must like those people's culture and love them. He must, for instance, share food with them, live with them as well as be as closer as possible to them in a sorrowful situation.
4. An African missionary must build where he is on duties such as, churches, homes, toilets, schools, hospitals and so on.

## **CHAPTER I: The Concept of mission vision in Africa**

### **A. AFRICA**

Nowadays, the mission in Africa has to call on many people. According to Matthew 28:19-20, the mission includes three steps:

1. Evangelization
2. Disciples' training
3. Church planting

Once the three steps are met, we may then claim to have reached our goals

#### **a. A look at the previous missions**

For years, missionaries have accepted their work which is now seen as a true landmark. The link between the African mission and Western missions can not be broken.

#### **Rising needs for the church in Africa**

1. These needs are due to demographic changes;
2. People seek for solutions to their bad living conditions such as, wars, anger and financial difficulties.

#### **b. Awakening to the consciousness of the mission**

When an implemented church grows, most of time the missionary has to leave, but this early separation generates some difficulties that the church cannot overcome easily. Nevertheless, the awareness of the African church deserves encouragement despite its meaningless means.

### **B. THE CASE OF CAMEROON**

In 2004, it was decided during the General Conference that took place in the USA to extend the Wesleyan Church in the French speaking countries of Africa. Consequently, I was appointed, during the National Conference that took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on September 9-12, 2004 chaired by Rev. Lindsay Cameron, as Missionary in Cameroon for the implementation of the Wesleyan Church.

On May 11, 2005, my family and I went to Yaoundé, the capital city of Cameroon. As you may guess, the beginning is always tough; but the word of God says that: 'what is impossible with men is possible with God (Mark 10:27). God helped us and we started door to door evangelization despite we did not know their behavior, mentality or culture.

The door to door method is the most accounting and efficient one because it implies a follow-up and a systematic communication until one decides to follow Christ. We have faced difficulties with animists to accept the word of God.

Every Wednesday, we have a deliverance service as a tool of evangelization to attract souls. We bless the Holy Spirit that helps us and acts through us thanks to signs and miracles. It is with great joy that we witness the progress of evangelization through the 'Andrew Operation': Andrew brought his brother Peter to Jesus, so everybody invites his brother or his friend. That is how the Wesleyan Church started in Cameroon. The only difficulty that we are facing is the renting of the house/hall where the church service takes place.

## **CHAPTER II: MISSION PREPARATION**

In the African context, the African missionary is supposed to cope with today's realities and believe in God's faithfulness for the success and blessing of the work. Some of the solutions suggested in this scope of work are related to some experiences from previous African missions and allow us to believe that they can contribute to the longer list of other provisions already provided by others in the past and those to come.

We can say that mission work is not only the white man's concern but also African's one. In the 21st century Africans are required to be missionaries in Africa, We know the strength and weakness of white missionaries in Africa about what they did successfully and what they did not succeed (they did not understand African culture by demonizing all Africans). They were pioneers when many Africans were still illiterate, but today there is a revolution. African thought is not like before independence period in Africa. In other words, an African missionary has to change evangelization methods and techniques in accordance with the word of God.

The African missionary has to be aware of the following aspects:

It is worth recalling that all the great results that man has achieved in his life were associated with the preparation. That is why all the great men of God spent more time in training to earn their current positions in the ministry.

Needless to remind that poor preparation of missionaries or lack of the said preparation could contribute to the success of the church in Africa. Therefore, before sending a person on a mission, it is really compulsory to look at beforehand to a circuit layout that is essential.

### **Preparation ----- Call -----Dispatch**

The field needs are to be taken into account before sending missionaries on missions, and this requires a rapid and immediate answer to this problem. The diagram shown above is essential if we are to have consistent results.

As far as the call is concerned, we believe that God is sovereign when He invites a person or makes him ready for a specific task. Like in the general framework, the missionaries also receive God's call.

→ **Around the call**, God communicates a burden for the salvation of sinners and all the important mechanisms to facilitate their growth so that they can also become the instruments according to the will of God. During the call, God puts us under the authority of skilled leaders or mentors for a good pedagogy. He lightens what burns in us and gives us a greater passion for the work. The insurance we have is that in Africa many people have actually received a call from the real mission and the evidence is tangible.

→ **As regards the mission preparation**, it is on it that the emphasis must be put. Why prepare or train missionaries and who should train them? Finally, what is the impact of this training in the future?

As already said, preparation consists of equipping someone to make him useful in the field of use.

Who is supposed to train missionaries and how should they be trained?

→ Those who train must have been trained for the mission.

→ They have to share the experience of the work.

→ They must be equipped.

→ They must have the desire to communicate (they must be good stewards).

• The training program of missionaries should progressively be extended over periods ranging from 3, 6 or 12 months.

**The Mission Training materials are:**

**1) Evangelization** spread the good news of Jesus-Christ to the pagans for their conversion and their decision in Christ.

**2) Disciples' training**, produce and train the disciples working for their maturity so they can be like Christ and be to his service.

**3) Implementation of the Church** involves the establishment of new assemblies made of those who are born again and have accepted to serve God by looking in the same direction and sharing the same vision.

**SUMMARY:** In view of these points that have been highlighted, here are some suggestions regarding the African missionary on African soil:

**1) Take the time to train prospective missionaries that can be selected from the assemblies.**

- 2) Conduct training sessions to a large scale by combining the members in churches who are active for the same cause.
- 3) Write down an outline of training in the churches to facilitate the systematic method of the work.
- 4) Initiate calls once or twice a year to motivate those who are willing to be on missions and encourage them to be trained. Moreover, other qualified teachers for this work have to be contacted.
- 5) Make the selected teams involve and be trained to work for the implementation of a new church. This should be done together with the trainers or pastors of the church. The more missionaries will be sent on missions, the more a lot of people will be affected by the gospel.

## **CHAPTER IV: Motivation of the local church**

### **A. Motivation**

In order to motivate the church on the mission of the African missionary on African soil, we think that if there are currently low scores on the general plan, it is due to the fact that the base was not very well supported. We believe that the local church is the foundation of all, it should be fully sensitized. Here are some guidelines in that effect:

- 1) Having the mission vision. (This is something that every leader must have and control its issues).
- 2) Communicating the vision and re-communicating meetings from time to time.
- 3) Maintain this vision through prayer.
- 4) Encourage the church and make it a priority.
- 5) Motivate missionaries with necessary financial means for a more reassuring support before they are sent on missions.
- 6) Make a budget and define the main guidelines of this mission.
- 7) Keep the optimism at the start of a mission program.

## **CONCLUSION**

African missionaries are requested to be involved in the mission in order to face the challenge in African countries, despite the challenges due to financial and transportation problems.