

MR. EDWARD NVOUNI
Report #C04

ABSTRACT

Survey respondents identified Mr. Edward Nvouni as a non-clergy Christian leader having a significant positive impact. An architect, who studied abroad, and who has been a leader in his field, Mr. Nvouni has also helped build many church buildings and has served in leadership in his local church. Survey respondents indicated he was highly respected and had done much to support churches and help with leadership support and development.

BACKGROUND

Childhood Home

Mr. Nvouni Edward was born in a little village called Limassa in the sub-prefecture of Kembé in January 1st, 1956. He spent his childhood and almost all his primary school and got his Primary and Elementary Certificate there. When he was 12-13 years, he left the village to go to town to continue in high school. When he was in the village, he was not only attending the elementary school, but being of the tribe who lives along the riverside, he also participated in some traditional activities like fishing, and he also helped his parents with farm work.

In childhood, his father taught him and his siblings, to be honest in their behavior with their friends and companions at school. Designing attracted him. This is what motivated him to study engineering.

Country of residence

During his childhood, he stayed almost six months in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire, because some of his grandmothers lived there. But apart from that, he was very lucky to have lived abroad for higher studies in engineering, especially in Paris, where he spent four years in Grenoble and Nimes. Also, he traveled for short periods in other countries for two to six months for internships, especially in Tunisia and Cameroon.

Current Family

Mr. Edward Nvouni is married and father of eight, two girls and six boys. His wife is a teacher, and both of them work for the Lord in the Evangelical Baptist Church (EEB) of Kpetené. In this church, his wife is a deaconess; before that, she was the leader of the Virtuous Women. Regarding Mr. Edward Nvouni, he is an elder in this church since 1991. For what concerns their family life, Mr. Nvouni and his wife are in charge of many children of their deceased brothers.

Concerning the children, Mr. Edward Nvouni admits that almost three-quarters are submitted. But for the rest, it is difficult to assess because many times their behavior proves that there is somewhere lack of total submission.

Regarding the involvement of their children in their ministry, Mr. NVOUNI Edward says: "It is positive in the local church. In fact, if the pastor were here, he could confirm because I am not the one saying it but the leaders of the youth ministry assert it." Recently our third born after his baccalaureate chose to study theology at the Theological Institute of Carnot. This was his personal choice. It was not under the influence of his father who envisioned something else for him since this baccalaureate was technical. The boy's vision was to become a servant of God.

Educational Background

Mr. NVOUNI Edward began his primary education in the village where he was born up to the level of primary and Elementary Education Certificate (CPCE). He failed two times to enter college.

Then, because he could not longer stay in the village, he had to go and stay with his uncle in Bambari and there succeeded to his sixth-grade entrance exam and was admitted to the technical school in Bangui where he completed his secondary education. From there, he got his Baccalaureate of Technology, and because at that time the university did not offer any appropriate program for those with a technical certificate, he had to go to France to advance his education and applied for civil engineering studies for four years.

It should be noted that Mr. Edouard Nvouni had the opportunity to study both in technical and vocational fields, and both have allowed him to focus more on entrepreneurship. On a professional level, his studies as he said, were more focused on the profession. Therefore, when he came back to the country, instead of remaining in the profession, he was trained for he turned to teaching because there was a lack of technical teachers. All the teachers were European expatriates. Thus, he was one of the first Black Africans that have replaced the White Europeans. For example, he was with Dr. David Koudougouret, and they worked as vocational-technical teachers. Therefore, he decided to apply his knowledge to the pedagogy of transmission. Instead of being integrated as an engineer, he was integrated into the civil service as a technical teacher. From there, he had to go and take some pedagogical training, particularly in France. He went back again to France for the training of technical school inspectors to return to the country to hold the function of pedagogical school inspector of technical teachings.

Regarding biblical or theological education, Mr. Edward NVOUNI did not do theological or biblical studies. However, when he was in high school, he was involved in activities in the church he was attending, the Baptist Church of Brussels. He had the opportunity to work with a pastor who was smart and had the vocation of training his associates. It is there that he was trained as a Sunday School teacher. He was also taught how to read and interpret the Bible. The pastor of the Baptist Church of Brussels transmitted to him the taste to read the Word of God and to apply it to his life. Even today the teaching he received from that pastor constitutes the foundation for everything he does in the church.

Key influences

The first positive influences Mr. Edward Nvouni came from the education he received in school that allowed him to reach a higher level of education. Also the fact that he has had a strong connection with the church influenced him positively. Everything he acquired as an engineer he put it at the service of the local church when he participated in building churches and temples. For example, he helped build the Baptist Church of Sapeke (CEBEC), the Baptist Church of Kembé (UFEB), the Baptist Church of Kpetené (EEB), the Baptist Church of Castor (UEB) and also the Baptist Church of Battalion III still on construction.

Mr. Edouard Nvouni went two times to France: the first time as a student and the second time as a lecturer. He got a scholarship to enter the Institute of Civil Engineering. As part of his studies, there were two things: there was the theoretical part and practical part. The theoretical part included general studies: French, mathematics, physics ... and the practical and professional areas which included an internship in workshops, laboratories and enterprises. During those four years, he worked six weeks every year in an enterprise, and this was compulsory for all students. In the workshops, he was to apply on a practical level what he had learned theoretically. He worked for a company that was in Toulouse that was on the building of roads that had his office in Bangui. There in Toulouse, he worked as a laborer for two months. After he had worked in a building enterprise for two months, he ended up in an electricity company for also two months. In the fourth year, he did not stay permanently in the enterprise, but went from one company to another for two weeks because he had a project to write at the end of his studies.

When he went for the second time in France, as a teacher, he went to the academic inspection where he was appointed to work with an experienced technical education inspector. At the same time, he

went to technical schools, and this enabled him to acquire all the process from the writing of book report to teaching. He also had the opportunity to teach in three schools: the first was a specialized building technical school; the second was a vocational hotel trade school for girls, and the third was a polyvalent school of sciences and technology.

During the first year, he was first supported by a national scholarship. The next three years, he got a scholarship offered by France. When we went to France for the second time, it was thanks to a bilateral France/CAR cooperation that he obtained a scholarship to go on internship.

Personal testimony and calling

In all that God has done for this gentleman, two testimonies are to be remembered: The first thing is when he was looking for a plot in Bangui to settle. This is when he saw God intervene, and he got the plot.

The second testimony is how God protected him in 2001 when there were politico-military problems in the country.

Personally, Mr. Edward Nvouni did not receive any form of direct calling from God. He believes that the hand of God was simply on him and many things concerning him

The way Mr. Edward Nvouni was led to accomplish so much, was not a miracle. He does his best to respect his word, that is to say, he is a man of principle. When he wants to do something, he simply goes ahead and does it. When he is not sure about something, he will not give his opinion. He does his best to be upright in all his doings and attitudes with others.

Influences

Mr. Edward Nvouni had known a couple of people who have positively influenced his life, in particular, a teacher who has supervised classroom Middle Course First Year (CM1) and opted for the pastoral ministry after his retirement. Some of his uncles also have influenced his life by their honesty. He also has known some of his lecturers who influenced him by their honesty and uprightness in their work.

CURRENT MINISTRY AND VOCATION

Work/Ministry

Concerning his studies, Mr. Edward NVOUNI is a trained engineer who voluntarily converted to a teacher in the field of technical education. On the engineering aspect, he does private works for individuals.

In the teaching area, he is a trainer of trainers. But, he has currently been appointed by UNESCO to work as an assistant to the professional training and insertion program. Basically, this gentleman has three times or phases for which he spends his time. He spends most of his time after work with his family and friends. He is also involved in church activities.

Mission /Vision

Very soon Mr. Edouard Nvouni will retire. His vision is to be well organized so that he may have a decent retirement that he will use to be useful to the work of God.

Organization

Since 2001, Mr. Edward NVOUNI is working with the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)* as the national representative of Technical and Vocational Training. He is also representing CAR in UNESCO

Impact/Success/Evaluation

According to Mr. Nvouni, the most positive impact he has made can be evaluated for his contribution to the work of God in local churches. His most positive impact was the construction of church buildings. As a teacher, he also trained some students who have become architects, engineers and who are practicing in the country. As part of his activities, he is also a counselor for professionals; he trained people on computers though he is not a computer engineer.

Training/leadership development

Mr. Edward Nvouni played an important role in the insertion of youth especially in the current situation of the country where many were suspected to be ready to join the armed groups. Thus, the Fund for the Consolidation of Peace granted money to the CAR Government, and part of that money was directed to the professional insertion of young people in regions where the conflicts took place. A specialist in technical education and vocational training was needed for this job. He was thus appointed to develop and implement this program. He was to rehabilitate existing buildings, equip them with appropriate teaching materials, and proceed to the training of the candidates according to their specialty. The ultimate goal is that when the learners have completed their training, they are inserted into the society and become managers of their own enterprises.

According to Mr. Edward Nvouni the advice that must be given to young people is to be honest about what they do if they want to succeed.

Professional relationship

Mr. Edward Nvouni was trained to do team-work. He has never had any problem with his superiors or subordinates. He has always developed a good working atmosphere and is concerned about succeeding in his work. He enjoys working with the staff with respect to established standards for outcomes.

Partnership / Links

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) has a lot of networks. Even now in CAR, the *OIF* works in partnership with the University and with many other departments. It also is connected to the elections. Mr. Edward NVOUNI is part of a specific network that concerns professional and technical training. UNESCO itself has many branches Mr. Nvouni cannot cite here.

SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Like any human being, Mr. Edward NVOUNI has strengths and weaknesses. His strength resides in the fact that he can convince an audience. Regarding his Weaknesses, he knows he is slow in making decisions, especially when it comes to family matters. According to Mr. Nvouni, when an opportunity comes to him, he always takes his time to examine it before taking any action. He does not want this opportunity to become an obstacle to his faith. For what concerns threats, since he will retire soon, he is very careful not to do anything that will compromise his retirement.

Reading and Writing

Mr. Edward Nvouni's reading is more focused on technical documents and Christian literature and the Bible. For him, reading is very important because it helps him develop intellectually.

Electronic Media

Cell phones and The Internet are for Mr. Edouard Nvouni working tools. They are important because he uses them to communicate with people.

Finance and Other Resources

His financial resources come from his clients.

Political Arena

Christians who are involved in politics must do it to guarantee a secure society, and when there are abuses, they should be able to denounce them. Christians should do the politics which promote love, reconciliation, and peace that encourages people to work and be organized. But going into politics for profit, is bad because there are many Christians who are in politics just for self-interest. For Mr. Edward Nvouni, these are not Christians, but angels of the devil.

The Future

Mr. Edward Nvouni is already 57 years and has almost fulfilled all his dreams. His expectations are to remain in the Lord the rest of his life and see his children grow. He wants to help them succeed in life and be independent since he will not always be with them.

Mr. Edward Nvouni is currently working on the construction of a large Technical and Vocational Education Institute in Bangui.

Report Information Preparation

Names: Max José Koyadibert and Kalembe Mwambazambi

Person Interviewed: Mr. Edward Nvouni

Date of interview: Tuesday, September 9, 2013

POST-CONFLICT INTERVIEW REPORT

7/23/14, Interviewed by Max Koyadibert

Although Mr. Nvouni was not personally affected by the violence of the conflict, the organization where he was working as Project Manager was closed because of the conflict, so he has been unable to work. In his area, some houses and Mosques were destroyed, and he strongly condemns the “so-called Christians” who participated in this destruction and violence.

Prior the recent political crisis, Mr. Nvouni was involved in establishing training initiatives in areas affected by conflict. During the last event, with the support of his neighbors, he gathered the youth of his area and counseled them. They advised the youth not to engage blindly in the conflict because the consequences could be disastrous for the area. They held meetings with the youth to organize the security of the area. He played an important role in counseling the youth of his area, who were mostly Christian, not to retaliate when they were attacked by the youth from the Muslim areas.

Mr. Nvouni’s personal and professional plans changed because of the conflict. He had signed agreements with partners abroad and had planned to teach in private vocational and technical schools, but all this fell through because of the conflict. His partners postponed everything until 2015, but he is not sure whether the situation in CAR will be stable at that time.

This situation affected Mr. Nvouni a lot. The construction of the Technical and Vocational Education Institute in Bangui has stopped. He tried to encourage his various partners to follow through and implement their projects, pointing out that even though the country is experiencing crises, there will come a time when the crises will stop, and the country will rise again. But the partners told him to be patient and wait for things to come back to normal.