

**MR. DAVID KOUDOUGUERET**  
**Report #C06**

**SURVEY**

In the CAR survey, David Koudougueret was one of the two pastor names listed most frequently(110) as having optimum impact. A Baptist pastor, between 55 and 64 years old, he was rated quite high for the extent to which he prepares leaders.

**BACKGROUND**

***Childhood Home***

Mr. David Koudougueret was born in Kaga-Bandoro, CAR. He spent his early childhood at the Mid-Mission missionary station in the same village where his father was a Bible school student before becoming a Pastor. The great factor that influenced his childhood was what was called the children's class that was initiated by the missionaries where he was enrolled. He learned how to read and write there, and before he entered primary school, he could already read the New Testament. Teachers were amazed because he could read what he wrote on the blackboard. He was so smart that when he was in primary school, the headmaster made him jump one class and instead of spending six years in primary school, he stayed only five years. His connection with the missionary station and friendship with their children have had a great impact on him when he was growing and also in his adult life.

***Countries of Residence***

After his baccalaureate, Mr. David Koudougueret was sent to Canada to study civil engineering for three years. Besides that, he received other training notably at Haggai Institute in Singapore. For his Ph.D., he stayed in an Evangelical Centre in Britain. Finally, he went to Holland for three months to work with his supervisor.

***Current Family***

Mr. David Koudougueret is married and father of seven. His spouse works with the government, and all his children are now adults. He transmitted all that he received to his children who prayed with him during their family devotion; his children are in the choir or the youth movements of the church and IFES. Everywhere they go, they are involved in church activities, and their contribution to his ministry is positive.

***Educational Background***

Mr. David Koudougueret began his education with kindergarten and his primary school in Kaga-Bandoro. After that, he went to secondary school at Sibut, and then he went to Bambari to continue. It was there that he got his Primary School Certificate and was sent to the Barthélémy Boganda High School where he did a scientific specialization. When he got his baccalaureate, he was first sent to Yugoslavia to the specialist Institute of Civil Engineering but later, the government changed the program, and he was sent to Canada to do civil engineering for five years.

But when he was in eighth grade, he participated in a biblical camp with Dr. Isaac Zokoué who was one of the organizers and who was at that time a student at Vaux-Sur-Seine in France. During this camp, he began to feel God's calling. Even when he reached the twelfth grade, and got his baccalaureate, he attended another biblical camp and felt clearly the call again and since that day, even when he was pursuing his studies in civil engineering, he began

to have less interest in his studies. When he was in the third year of civil engineering, he went for holidays in Bangui, and the School of Theology was already established, he decided finally to drop out to register at BEST. He completed his M.A in Theology in 1984. He worked for *Union Fraternelle des Eglises Baptistes* as General Secretary, Head of the Bible School, and Assistant Pastor at Ngoubagara Church up to 1994. He also worked as Bible translator, and it was during this period that a scholarship was granted to him by the church to go and study at Oxford in Britain in an Evangelical cross-cultural center where he studied with people from different countries. He wrote his thesis at Oxford and defended it at Ladger University in Holland in 2001. Later on, he entered the ministry full time.

Mr. David Koudougouret did not receive any vocational training but initiated many projects that gathered young people to train them and redirect them to private activities. Besides, he is a gentleman who spent all his life in the church: choir, youth group, Young Christian Union (YCU/IFES). Thus, he was shaped by the church. He was influenced by brethren he met whether within or outside the country.

Mr. David Koudougouret has had the chance to go to Canada to study with a Canadian scholarship. For his studies in England, it was the Fraternal Union of Baptist Churches that looked for a scholarship for him. For Haggai Institute, it was the institute that supported him.

### ***Personal Testimony and Calling***

According to Mr. David Koudougouret, his calling was progressive, and it took place during two biblical camps. But first of all, his father's life greatly influenced him for he was a wonderful man of God. His father was a man who put his confidence in God who loved him. Therefore, his life influenced his calling. Secondly, Dr. Isaac Zokoué's life also influenced his calling because he was the first young evangelical who accepted to study theology.

For what concerns what God does through him to others, Mr. David Koudougouret thinks that he is not the one who can say something about it. Only those who have been influenced by his ministry can tell. However, he acknowledges that through the different campaigns and youth camps that he organized, many young people are now servants of God, many young lives have been saved, and those who were drug addicts came out of it. For instance, he initiated a program called BK and Sobagjo Initiatives (BK: is the fellowship with Pygmies and Sobadjo is fellowship with the Fulani) a missionary program that is based on schooling and health.

Mr. David Koudougouret states that his life has a sense of this calling; God's love influences any moment of his life. This man's secret is his dependence on God. Everything is not pink for in all his activities whether in church or the different organizations; he sometimes faces oppositions from Satan, but it is his dependence on God that sustains him.

### ***Influence***

Mr. David Koudougouret is influenced by his father, by Isaac Zokoué, by all those who were close to him, and a Swiss missionary called Isabelle Martin of the Carouge Evangelical Church. This lady was like a sister to him, a friend, a mother--the bond between them was consolidated quickly. She accompanied him all along his studies from the second to the third year at BEST where she passed away. In fact, this woman has greatly influenced Mr. David Koudougouret by her life. She transmitted to him the notion of non-violent revolution, she used to say: "You can transform the world through love," and today thanks to her advice and what he copied from her personality, David Koudougouret is for instance doing missionary work among the Fulani of CAR, who consider him like one of them.

## **CURRENT MINISTRY OR VOCATION**

### ***Work/Ministry***

Mr. David Koudougouret's main ministry is pastoral. Effectively, he is the current leading pastor of the Ngoubagara Baptist Church of more than 7,000 to 10,000 members. Before that he lectured at BEST and had even occupied the position of Academic Dean and that of Dean of Research and Publication. But, since 2010, he is more involved in the church and implemented a missionary program because before embracing the pastoral ministry, his heart was more for evangelism and mission.

### ***Mission/Vision***

Mr. David Koudougouret's vision concerns everyone's well-being. And for him, it is for that reason that Jesus came, and this is in God's plan of salvation. Salvation involves the holistic happiness of humanity.

### ***Organization***

In addition to his local church, Mr. David Koudougouret commits the essential part of his time to leadership training. He is also involved in the Evangelical Alliance in CAR and the World Evangelical Alliance. He also coordinates the missionary program implemented by the local church which works among the Pygmies and the Fulani.

### ***Professional Relationships***

Mr. David Koudougouret was raised in a traditional familial setting and leadership where respect is due to elders. He has learned to submit to people who are above him. Therefore, no respect to work and rule are out of the question.

### ***Impact/Success/Assessment***

Mr. David Koudougouret thinks that the impact or success of his ministry can only be assessed by external witnesses, and this is what the church lacks. The church contributed to many things to the positive transformation of the population and the country but does not have the means to assess its accomplishments.

### ***Training/Leadership Development***

Since Mr. David Koudougouret entered the ministry at all levels, training remains for him the most important thing. For instance, in the area of the church, he organizes different training programs within the church and without. For him, training is vital for the life of the church.

Also, when the youth come to him for counseling, he gives them what he can. Otherwise, he will recommend them to competent people.

In the area of training, the church sent five people abroad to be trained, and fifteen were training in the country. Mr. David Koudougouret was the first to be trained at Haggai Institute, and then he recommended others to go.

### ***Professional Relationships***

Because of his vision for training and as an agent of development, Mr. David Koudougouret created a network of partners. For instance, he is a member of Service Chrétien d'Appui à l'Animation Rural (SECAAR) for which he wrote numbers of articles. He is also a researcher in the field of translation. He is connected with other translators in the world.

### ***Partnerships/Links***

Mr. David Koudougouret is also working in partnership with other communities. He envisions initiating interreligious actions for peace in CAR. He is planning to have an encounter with religious leaders like the Catholics, and Muslims of the fourth district, to interact with them and discuss with them to see how they can use religion to be a promoter of peace and not of politics.

### ***SWOT: Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats***

For David Koudougouret, his strength resides in God. The Gospel and the presence of the Spirit of God in him lead him. For what concerns his weaknesses as a human he is tempted to steal God's glory. He is a man who has challenges and faces permanent obstacles in his ministry.

First as a Christian and then as a leader, he encourages other leaders to seize any opportunity that comes their way and to be attentive to the social, economic and cultural development among other things.

### ***Reading and Writing***

David Koudougouret likes reading the Bible and other documents. He is also interested in new publications. He says: "The Spirit of God works at all time and causes others to write to share their experiences." Therefore, he reads about anything concerning Christian life, the management of the church, etc. He tries to read African and non-African authors. However, he puts emphasis on African literature and then of Asiatic and American literature. He feels comfortable with French, Sango, and English. However, he is more attracted by publications by African authors because they express African realities. His only publication is his thesis entitled: *Poétique et Traduction Biblique: Les Récits de la Genèse dans le système Littéraire Sango*.

His thesis is used in Bible societies to advise and teach translators. Teachers also consult his thesis. It is a book that is most used in French-speaking countries. A female lecturer at BEST made the summary of the book in English and published it in newspapers. Finally, Mr. David Koudougouret considers Scriptures as the most effective means because printing pages can go in schools and almost everywhere and they can be read. Therefore, the Scriptures are very important for humanity.

### ***Electronic Media***

Mr. David Koudougouret contact with the computer goes back to the period when he was studying Civil Engineering in 1999. As for the Internet, it was when he was writing his thesis that he began using it. It is an indispensable tool for the ministry. He has many email addresses. In addition to Yahoo, Laposte, he also uses Facebook.

### ***Finances & Other Resources***

Thanks to the Coordination of *l'Evangélisation et de l'Œuvre Missionnaire* (Evangelism and Missionary Work Coordination) that was created by the late Pastor Paul Change, and voluntary financial gifts from brethren, the mission is supported. The Coordination raises funds. The day of Holy Communion in church forms their financial resource.

### ***Political Arena***

Mr. David Koudougouret asserts that if we look at politics in the sense of managing public affairs, God is the initiator of politics. He says: "When God told the first couple to cultivate

and keep the garden, it is already the management of what God put in their hands.” He encourages Christians to be involved in the management of public affairs and to excel in their jobs when they have the possibility to offer quality services. The person he proposes as a model is the former Prime Minister Archange Touadera who is a member of the church. He was impacted by the gospel to the point that wherever he goes he leaves a positive impression even on Muslims. This is what is called to influence the political arena positively. Therefore, every Christian must be involved in the management of public affairs, and the Church should be there to encourage and lead. David Koudougouret encourages Christians to be among best citizens of their countries because the Christian is a citizen of Heaven but also of the earth. Thus, he must be ready for heaven, but he also must leave a good impact in the socio-economic, cultural and political sphere.

### ***Future***

David Koudougouret’s dream is “to better work for God” as Paul states. In fact, for him, this must be part of everyone’s dream most precisely of the Christian. That is to say that what the Christian does tomorrow must be better than what he does today. Things must be better than what they were yesterday; if not, the Christian is stagnating.

For what concerns his future plans in the area of writing, Mr. David Koudougouret, does not have a plan because since he left BEST, his resources are limited and what the church gives him is not enough.

### ***Question for Pastors: How are you influential as a pastor?***

David Koudougouret believes that what makes the strength of a person in general and that of a Christian, in particular, is his practice of faith. That is to say, his way of life, what he believes and that is what makes the strength of a Christian. In fact, a Christian should make efforts to put into practice what he believes. It is a lifetime commitment to God and human community. It is what makes his strength, on a daily basis; he makes every effort to offer quality work to God and human community. Sometimes, during the night, he thinks about what he can do to others. For David Koudougouret, he thinks that strong people, strong Christians were people with principle. Thus, there were principles that guided their lives, and if Martin Luther King succeeded impacting the whole world, it was because he applied the principles of the Gospel to the social realities of his generation. Nowadays, Christians should, everyone at his level do the same; to impact his generation with the Gospel.

Regarding the frequency and way he prepares his sermons, Mr. David Koudougouret takes the Bible seriously. He firmly believes what the Bible says. When he opens his Bible, he opens it with the expectation that God has something to tell him about a particular situation. Thus, he is at the disposal of the Bible, and when he reads the Bible, he does it with the idea that he will discover precious things.

In the area of preaching, the first step is a simple reading of the scripture, then a second or third reading. This reading will help him capture important things. Then, he will read the texts in the original version; he will analyze them and after doing that, he will note the different themes of the text. From that, he already has an idea of the plan of the sermon and after that, he will leave the text and take notes and apply the text to the reality of the current existence. It is only after that that he will consult the commentaries because the commentaries take into account the context in which they have been written. He does that only to complete some points in his sermon to enrich his message. After that, he writes his sermon by selecting terms and expressions that will allow him to communicate effectively with more strength. In all this,

Mr. David Koudougouret asserts that it is a long process and as he says you cannot prepare a 45-minute sermon in 45 hours.

***Report Information Preparation***

Names: Max José Koyadibert and Kalemba Mwambazambi

Date of interview: Thursday, 26 September 2013

## POST-CONFLICT INTERVIEW REPORT

*9/1/14, Interviewed by Max Koyadibert*

The area of Bangui where Dr. Koudougouret lives and ministers was subject to much violence during both the times of Seleka and Antibalaka attacks. He says one French journalist called their area “the martyrs’ zone” because of the many punitive expeditions led there by Selekas against suspected political partisans of the former President, Bozize. During the conflict, Dr. Koudougouret’s church maintained services despite losing many members to the violence. For a few particularly dangerous weeks, they had their members hold services and prayer at home.

Because of Dr. Koudougouret’s ministry with Muslim and Fulani, which included sheltering their children in his compound, he was targeted by the Anti-balakas when they arrived in Bangui. These children had been sent away to safety when the Anti-balakas came. They targeted his home and compound with gunfire and a grenade, broke through the gate, and looted the outbuildings while Dr. Koudougouret and others took shelter in the main house.

Dr. Koudougouret had an opportunity to go stay on the campus of FATEB during the conflict, and his church encouraged him to do so since his compound was in such danger, but he said, “I did not have the conviction to leave because it was like forsaking the sheep... Therefore I stayed home with the children.” “It is not easy to be a pastor,” he said, “especially in these periods of military-political crises. The temptation is most of the time to protect oneself. But we prayed to ask the Lord to help us overcome this temptation.”

The Fulani and Muslims that Dr. Koudougouret works with were greatly affected by the conflict. Fulani camps and schools in different regions were destroyed, and people were scattered. In Bangui, the homes of Muslims, and mosques were destroyed. He was able to accommodate many people who needed refuge and helped direct others to safe places. Many Muslims found refuge in a nearby Mosque but were without food for days. Dr. Koudougouret and others sent them food and money.

Dr. Koudougouret says that the conflict strengthened his faith and taught him the practical application of scriptures such as “Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.” Going forward, he says he has new visions for ministries such as pastoral care, counseling, and healing.