

**CHRISTIAN EMBASSY: CENTRAL AFRICAN NGO OF DEVELOPMENT**  
**Ambassade Chretienne: Ong Au Service Du Developpement**  
**Report #C10**

## **SURVEY**

Our survey showed that many Christians in the Central African Republic identified Ambassade Chrétienne as a Christian organization with a very high impact in the society. It is number four on the list in terms of frequency listed.

## **ABSTRACT**

Ambassade Chretienne is an organization created to serve the whole body of the evangelical community in CAR. It is working in relationship with the International Missionary Association MARANATHA based in France. It is specialized in broadcasting and other development activities.

## **HISTORY AND BACKGROUND**

Ambassade Chretienne was founded by the International Missionary Association MARANATHA. The Association was created by the members of the Charismatic Baptist Church Maranatha in Osny, France. This community was committed for years to pray for CAR. Finally, they decided to create an organization for spiritual support and relief in CAR. Ambassade Chrétienne was established in CAR in July 2001 under the leadership of Pastor Josué BINOUA. Ambassade Chretienne is fully recognized by the Central African government as an NGO.

## **MISSION/VISION**

Ambassade Chretienne is not a church although it organizes prayers meetings and services from time to time. Based on the Scriptures, Ambassade Chretienne is there to serve the evangelical church in CAR and works for the unity of the body while preserving the identity of each denomination. Ambassade Chretienne offers tools and means to achieve such unity. Ambassade Chretienne wants to help the church to accomplish the great commission in a very holistic way using the Scripture and the Community Development. Their activities include the following:

### ***Broadcasting***

Ambassade Chretienne has a broadcasting station called Radio Evangile Nehemie. The name Nehemie (the Bible Nehemiah) carries out the mission of the organization, rebuilding the society in CAR as Nehemiah did for the wall of Jerusalem. It broadcasts on FM 104.4 MHz from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM from Monday to Sunday. The station is heard about 200 km from Bangui. Thus, Ambassade Chretienne contributes to the spread of Gospel through radio but also provides Christian education to people.

### ***Health***

Ambassade Chretienne is fighting HIV/AIDS through a department of VIH-HOPE-SUPPORT. The department is in charge of prevention and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. It offers space for psychological support to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Ambassade Chretienne is working mainly with youth to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Different means are used to reach young boys and girls such as cultural activities with drama, musical recital, literature in French and Sango about HIV/AIDS, etc.

Ambassade Chretienne gave an ambulance to one of the government hospitals in Bangui.

### ***Professional Training***

Ambassade Chretienne helps youth to get professional skills with computer training. Up to now about 232 people have been trained. Computers were also given to schools in Bangui for computer training.

### ***Fight against poverty***

Observatory of Christian Life in CAR is in charge of fighting against the poverty in CAR. This structure helps people to organize as an association to solve their problem in community. 3028 women, Christians and Muslims have been trained. They created about 352 women associations. They are managing micro projects that help to make money. They received about 3,500,000 FCFA [\$7,314 US dollars] for this purpose.

### ***Well being***

Ambassade Chretienne helped people in 2044 by digging a hole for clean water. 3,000 people in the village are able to get clean water thus preventing many diseases.

For years in CAR, the emphasis of the Evangelical Churches in CAR was over the spiritual salvation. Ambassade Chretienne through training helps pastors and other denominational leaders to balance the mission of the church. Jesus' example of both spiritual and physical concern serves as the basis for the teaching.

Ambassade Chretienne made donations of medicines, sports material, clothes, etc. to different associations in Bangui and the countryside.

## **STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION**

Ambassade Chretienne functions under the control of the General Assembly according to the statutes of the organization. The General Assembly is made of honorable or affiliated members. The Board of Ambassade Chretienne is made of 5 members elected for three renewable years. The board is the organ of conception and deliberation. To be elected to the board, one must fill the following criteria:

- to be a Christian from one of the evangelical churches
- to be compassionate for people who are suffering
- to live daily life according to the Word of God.
- to have been a member of Ambassade Chretienne for at least two years.
- to be recommended by the church.

The board oversees the spiritual life of the organization, the staff. It also represents the organization to the government and other organizations. It also plays the role of a bridge between Ambassade Chrétienne and the mother organization in France.

Recruitment of staff is made according to the labor law in CAR. Ambassade Chretienne has direction and departments that run the association on a daily basis. Currently, the leadership of Ambassade Chretienne is co-presided by two couples: Caron and Binoua. Apostle Robert Kpeko is in charge of supervision in the ground.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

Ambassade Chretienne is in partnership with many organizations working in CAR and pursuing the same objectives. These are for example Caritas, Adonai Mission, Campus Crusade, Scripture Union, Bible Society, FATEB, etc. Although these organizations are dealing with the same concern, the specificity of Ambassade Chretienne is to combine Word of God and Community Development. Ambassade Chretienne does not want people to become dependent on relief but to take their condition in charge.

At the international level, the Baptist Church in France is the main partner of Ambassade Chretienne. They are committed to praying for Ambassade Chretienne but also to raise money to support the organization in CAR. 75% of support to Ambassade Chretienne comes from this Baptist Church through fund raising in Europe and America.

## **FINANCES AND RESOURCES**

Ambassade Chretienne gets its main financial and physical resources from the Baptist Church in France. However, local support comes through services such as Radio broadcasting, computer training, donations, subsidies from other organizations, government, etc.

## **SWOT: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS**

### ***Strengths***

The strength of Ambassade Chretienne comes from what pastor Caron said once at the stadium in Bangui: "our action is based on the power of the Holy Spirit." Each day, people from Maranatha church pray for the mission of Ambassade Chretienne. The organization is meeting the real need of people in CAR.

### ***Opportunity***

The current situation in CAR offers a unique opportunity to bring the Word of God through evangelism and community development. Ambassade Chretienne has an opportunity to do it. Pastor Josue BINOUA played a role in the process of reconciliation during the National Dialog and his presence in the interim parliament in 2003.

### ***Challenges***

The political situation in CAR has ruined the efforts of Ambassade Chretienne. With unrest it became difficult to follow up different projects. The biggest challenge is the financial dependency.

## **IMPACT/SUCCESS/ASSESSMENT**

Ambassade Chretienne has a great impact through the broadcasting activities which places Radio Nehemie among the two top stations in the city. Ambassade Chretienne organizes a service each Friday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Hundreds of people from different denominations attend the service. The service contributes to the unity of the body. The Cultural Center BeOko (Oneness) has a listening center to help those who are seeking spiritual help.

## **PUBLICATION/MEDIA**

Ambassade Chretienne is using media, especially Internet. Pastor Binoua has written books to help in the area of leadership. A bookshop is open to help Christian to get Christian literature at a reasonable cost.

## **FUTURE**

Ambassade Chretienne has a strategic plan that needs revision. However, the mission remains the same: transformation of life, the holistic transformation of groups and populations in CAR.

## **REPORT INFORMATION PREPARATION**

Names: SAKALAIMA Paul and Dr. NUPANGA Weanzana  
Dates of interview: 21st September 2013

## **POST-CONFLICT INTERVIEW REPORT**

Ambassade Chretienne was closed due to the conflict in CAR.