

**EVANGELISM MISSION FOR THE SALVATION OF THE SOULS**  
**Mission D'evangelisation Pour Le Salut Des Ames (MESM)**  
**Report #C12**

## **SURVEY**

MESM was recognized as a Christian organization with significant impact in the survey in CAR. It was number ten on this list in terms of the frequency listed.

## **ABSTRACT**

MESM is an example of an indigenous organization supported by individuals and its members. Members come mainly from denominational churches established in Bangui, the capital city of CAR. They are people who are looking to God in response to the problems they are facing in daily life.

## **HISTORY AND BACKGROUND**

MESM was founded in Berbérati, a town about 450 kilometers from Bangui in the Western part of CAR. According to Apostle Théodore KAPOU, MESM was created as a response to a call from God. In fact, one night, he had a vision of a multitude of people from different colors, ages going towards hell. He ran and called these people to change their way because they were going straight to hell. Many of them came back and changed their direction. A voice revealed to him the name MESM.

The organization was launched first in Berbérati and those who came from Bangui for the ceremony brought back the organization in Bangui in 1997. A brother gave 1.000.000 FCFA [\$2,090 US Dollars] to buy sound equipment for evangelism. Thus, MESM is an indigenous evangelism movement initiated by a local servant of God in CAR. Apart from his ministry as the founder of MESM, Apostle Théodore KAPOU is also a president of the Community of Apostolic Churches in CAR.

## **MISSION/VISION**

MESM is a tool from God for the sake of His people. The vision is the salvation of the soul, especially for prostitutes, addicted and possessed people. MESM is an interdenominational organization. Its members came from all denominations, even from the Catholic Church. Some Muslims found Christ from the ministry of MESM. The target group for MESM is those who do not know Christ in their life. MESM in its ministry is trying to reach people who are not attending the church, or those who are in the church but do not find a solution to their problems. Sometimes, pastors in their church have no time to listen to the people. "At MESM we are available to listen to people's stories." The motto of MESM is "Evangelism, Mission and Intercession." MESM has different branches in Bangui as well in the countryside. The objective is to cover all provinces in CAR.

MESM is not a church. Those who accept Christ are directed to an Evangelical church close to their location.

## **LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE OF GOVERNANCE**

The Board of MESM is made of 9 people elected for three renewable years. The president of the board is the founder, Apostle Theodore KAPOU. The current vice president is Pastor BANGUE and the General Secretary Pastor Boris OUANTO. They are supported by a college of church leaders. To be members of the board, the candidate must:

- be recommended by his denomination
- have a passion for evangelism and mission
- have compassion for human beings
- live according to the Scriptures
- be a member of MESM for at least three years.

The Board is the organ of conception, decision and orientation of MESM. The Board works under the supervision of the General Assembly. The General Assembly meets once a year. It provides orientation to the Board and oversees the health of the organization. MESM is very sensitive to the gender issue. Three women are members of the Board. The majority of MESM members are women. They are also among those who are supporting MESM financially. There is a recruitment committee that decided on the appointment of board members and staff of MESM. Prayers accompany the process of selection according to the need. Job description and the profile of the candidate are given to the recruitment committee.

## **IMPACT/SUCCESS/ASSESSMENT**

The specific impact of MESM is to meet the needs of people who are living without Christ or those in the churches who are living with social, physical, and spiritual problems. The MESM gathering on Sunday afternoon attracts thousands of people who are attending their own churches in the morning. The established fact is that many churchgoers do not find a solution to the problem they are facing in the daily life such as spiritual possession, sickness, barren, unemployment, etc. At MESM, a college of pastors is available to listen and to pray with people. The Spirit of God is working. People are recovering, demons cast out, etc. Special prayers with fasting are conducted during the week for those in need. Testimony has an important place in the liturgy. Because God is working, those who listen to the numerous testimonies are coming to expose their problems. MESM is making the difference because time is given to hear people, to listen to their stories and problems and with them and with God's guidance, find a solution.

## **FINANCES AND RESOURCES**

As an indigenous organization, MESM financial resources come from its members. MESM has a bank account and a treasurer who is in charge of financial management. He reports to the Board and the General Assembly. Up to now the finances of MESM has not been audited, but there is a plan to do it soon.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

MESM is working with different Christian organizations sharing the same vision and concerns for the people of God. Organizations such as Campus Crusade, Adonai Mission, UJC (IFES), FATEB are among our partners in mission. MESM needs expertise from these organizations in the different field of evangelism or mission.

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

### ***Strengths***

With God's grace, MESM was able to develop in different parts in the city of Bangui. It takes any opportunity to present the work of Christ for the salvation of the human being. Because of the ministry of MESM, many people have abandoned their sins and gave their life to God and continue to serve Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit. Some picture from the archives showed people who were healed from evil possession and other diseases. People are now coming from other parts of the world (Africa, Europe and America) to MESM.

### ***Weaknesses***

The weakness of MESM comes from the fact that those who are working do not adopt or understand the vision of MESM. Now the founder is working to prepare the next generation so that the vision may continue.

### ***Challenges***

The biggest challenge comes from the fact that MESM is perceived as a church by many servants of God in CAR. They do not want their members to attend MESM service after hours. But on the contrary, the political situation has created many problems in the life of people. Only the Word of God can bring peace and change.

### ***Threats***

The political situation in CAR has undermined the ministry of MESM. The insecurity prevents people to attend the meeting as usual.

## **TRAINING/LEADERSHIP**

MESM is not a training school. We are recruiting people who are already trained. We work with them to help them to take up the vision of MESM. We trained them to listen to the people and how to deal with counseling because this is one of the reasons people are coming to MESM, to find a solution from God to their problem.

## **PUBLICATION/MEDIA**

MESM is building its website. It has a Facebook address. Because of the political situation in the country, MESM is no longer able to publish its own journal. We are using the local Christian radios to broadcast the Word of God and the ministry of MESM. There is a need for computer, recorders, camera and DVD duplicators.

## **FUTURE**

In the short term, MESM wants to buy the land where it is located now. The plan is to create a Christian radio and television. The aim is to transform the lives of people in a very holistic way.

In the long term, MESM wants to build a place that will serve as a listening place to welcome those who are coming far to build the peace from God. There is also a need for a Christian editing company to make Christian literature accessible to the Christian community.

## **REPORT INFORMATION PREPARATION**

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## POST-CONFLICT INTERVIEW REPORT

*5/26/15, Interviewed by Paul Sakalaima*

The first ALS interview regarding MESM was conducted with the founder of MESM, Apostle Theodore Kapou. However, he relocated to Cameroon with his family during the conflict, so the post-conflict interview was conducted with Prophet Boris Wato, the current coordinator of MESM.

MESM's headquarters is quite close to the area where the conflict was most violent, and this affected their ability to continue their ministry. Restricted communication and transportation limited their activities. The organization's staff was placed on leave temporarily, and attendance at their meetings, services, crusades, and prayer vigils dropped significantly from what it had been before the conflict. Although women came to MESM's premises for prayer in the mornings, the men stayed away because the Seleka were looking for them. Selekas visited MESM's headquarters on multiple occasions, but no one was killed, and no materials were stolen or destroyed. Prophet Wato says that when MESM was able to resume evangelization and prayer, some Anti-balakas and Selekas gave their lives to the Lord and were baptized.

Financially, the organization was supported by two sources during the conflict: internal and external. Internal contributions came from membership fees, but members were not able to give as much because of the conflict. External contributions came from donors who gave generously when the Founder traveled abroad to raise funds.

Prophet Wato believes that the conflict has increased Christians' consciousness regarding their faith. He thinks that before the conflict, pastors had become hypocritical and indifferent about fostering community and collaborating with other Christians. Looking forward, he hopes that MESM can help train leaders, support churches that were discouraged by the conflict, and get involved in the holistic improvement of Central African Republican's living conditions. MESM will revise their organization's vision and mission, and pray for the political situation to improve.