Dream inspires new church start in Congo village

Tease:

Pierre, I think some of my questions are simple translation issues, so hopefully they won’t be difficult to answer. Each question is highlighted in yellow. Also, I put quote marks around what appeared to be direct quotes, but I need you to make sure that those are direct quotes.

By Pierre T. Omadjela

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A streamer (is that a banner or sign and what did it say? Where was it hung?) resulted in a donation that funded the start of a United Methodist church in this village about 80 kilometers from the capitol city of Kinshasa.

Last year, the Rev. Apomana Famba Dje (Osambisha wa lokole-not sure what this is or means) was paying his own expenses to get to Bita, where the West Congo Conference had opened a local church several years before. (Is the name of the church Bita United Methodist Church?)

“But I did not lose the hope to my God. ‘If there is something I can do for your work, tell me oh God, I will do it to build a church for you my God,’ ’’ Apomana said he prayed. At the time, he earned about $1.50 US per month as pastor of the church (Is that right, was he the pastor?).

“One day, after receiving my salary of 30$ (that seems to be a different salary) at the end of the month, I decided to make a streamer and I asked three boys to put it up every Sunday morning, and remove it at 6 p.m.”

Then, he left to attend his mother’s funeral, and came back (a few weeks or days?) later, he found he had received money to build a church. “When I came back, I was surprised to find 25 sheets (probably translation but I don’t understand about sheets) and $1,000 U.S. dollars from a women, to build a local church for God in Bita (you had this as Buta, but I assume that was a typo and changed it to Bita) village.

The woman who made the donation was traveling from Kinshasa to Bandundu when she saw the streamer.

“One Sunday, I was going on my way and I was sleeping on the car. One of my employees worked me up and told me ‘Mother, here is your church,’ ’’ said Henrietta Awuy. “When I woke up, I saw the **streamer** under a palm tree brunches house (did you mean branches?) where people were having their church services every Sunday. I lost peace in my heart all the day.”

“I was disturbed and I could not (did a word drop out? Bear?) to see my brothers and sisters stopping the church service whenever the rain arrived during their time of prayer,” Awuy said. She called the district superintendent and asked if there was a church in Bita.

The Rev. Louis Loma Otshudi, East Kinshasa district superintendent, told her there was a church and she said she didn’t want the worshippers to pray outside, so she would help (I assume she gave the $1,000 but the story never really said that?)

The church was completed on xxxx (date?. “I am excited to see that my dream is a reality today,” Awuy said at the inauguration of the new church on June 6.

Damas Omadiheke, the lay leader of the East Kinshasa district, expressed his pride in the church and the lay members “who are doing their best to contribute with their means to the work of God.”

Bishop David K. Yemba, although still recovering from a case of malaria that sickened him during General Conference 2016, went to Bita in to bless the new church.

“The General Conference 2016 is over, but God's work is still on,” Yemba said. In his blessing prayer, he asked God to put his eyes to the local church and to always hear prayers of the members.

“When your servants will pray you in this local church, hear their prayers, forgive their sins and answer to them,” he prayed.

“The house of the Lord is finished, but we still need to build a house for the pastor, so he can come and stay here to pursue God's work,” Yemba said. “Also, our hope is to have, schools and hospitals for the development of our community.”

United Methodists from the West Kinshasa and Central Kinshasa district joined in the celebration, too.

Boniface Okende Bonge, the conference lay leader, said the conference wants to contribute for the purchase of more land. (did I get that right?). He asked the church leaders to continue building a good foundation in the minds of young people so that they are strong Christians and will not be “disoriented by teachings which are creating problems in other countries.”

Pierre: I don’t really understand the connection between Apomana and the boy who had the dream about the snake, or what the dream had to do with them looking for a church. Maybe you can explain, or maybe we can just take this section out of the story.

Apomana started his ministry with three young man. One of the young men has the habit to go to the farm every day, even on Sundays. And every Sunday, when he was going to the farm, he would meet with a snake. some days, he killed the snake and some other days he will just see the snake and that one will run away. One day, the man has a dream. In the dream, he heard a voice telling him, if you continue going to the farm on Sunday, this time you will not see the snake, but the snake will bit you and you will be killed. Since that day, the young man and his two friends decided to look for a church nearby in order to go to school. They then started to go to church in Bethel II local church which was located in around three kilometers from Bita. As they were very active, a cellule was open in their city.

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Captions:

Bita Cellule house inauguration, done on 06th June 2016 by Bishop David k. Yemba.

East Kinshasa district

West Congo Annual Conference UMC