



36 ❀ A good and faithful steward

Born in 1910 and baptized in 1935, the young Samuel Mulebo stood out among others at the Mukedi mission for his intelligence. Henry Moser employed him not only as a domestic but also to translate hymns from Tshiluba to Gipende, the language of the region.

After his studies Mulebo was hired as a bookkeeper at one of the posts of a large Belgian palm oil refinery, CKE. It was thanks to the various kinds of work he had learned under Moser that he could take advantage of this opportunity.

He married Henriette Sona and they had ten children. Samuel and Henriette led a good life of peace and mutual understanding. Their family members and household guests always enjoyed good, fair treatment. Mulebo was able to set up many of his brothers-in-law and cousins in good positions.

Mulebo was a competent and honest employee, and after rendering good service, he was transferred to Matshi and promoted to assistant director. He served there from 1949 to 1963. When he arrived at Lake Matshi, as happened in many other places, this layman conceived the idea of building a church. For this noble project Samuel was aided, in 1956, by two of his bosses who were at the head of CKE. As an assistant director of CKE, Mulebo related to people without considering their origin or language.

photo—Samuel Mulebo

After the church was built and while Samuel Mulebo was still at CKE, the denomination placed Nathanael Pumbu at the head of it. A well-organized choir was established, which set about evangelizing.

In 1960, the Belgians in charge of the company were obliged to leave the region because of the turmoil that came with independence. They entrusted the management of the entire company to Samuel Mulebo. As a Christian and as the person in charge, he regularly paid the workers and managed the personnel and resources effectively.

When the Europeans returned a year later, they were agreeably astonished to find money in the company's coffers—the last thing they expected. They were sure they would find the company bankrupt.

In regard to all that, Mr. Mbwalungu of the Catholic church in Bulungu testified, “The Protestant missionaries educated Samuel Mulebo very well by teaching him good ethics.” He added, “Samuel Mulebo was an exceptional Christian, a good man, very gracious, full of honesty and credibility.”

Samuel Mulebo died in 1983 at Kikwit general hospital.

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