



7 ❧ One of the first Christians at Mukedi

David Djoko was born around the turn of the century in the region of Mukedi. He was one of the first eight Christians to be baptized by immersion, according to Anabaptist rites, in the Tshinyo River. It was 1927. These eight were to be the nucleus of evangelization in the Mukedi region.

Among the first to receive a certificate from the Bible school at Mukedi, in 1932, David became one of the first teacher-evangelists sent from the mission. In 1937 he changed careers and went to work for the Equatorial Kasai Company, the large Belgian company that controlled the palm oil trade in the area. He married Rebecca Kwango, and they had eleven children.

Thanks to good training and advice, these children all became Christians and were drawn to responsible positions in different sectors. Despite material comforts resulting from their position in society, and thanks to the education received from their father, these children never neglected the word of God, which edifies and fortifies believers. David himself, although working for a large company, never stopped evangelizing the workers who were under his orders.

He gave up the contract with the company, however, and took up studies again. This time he went to the mission's teacher training institute and obtained a higher teaching certificate in 1940. This second degree enabled him to embrace another career, as a secretary

photo—David Djoko

in the administration of Chief Nzamba of Bakwa Katundo. He served there for two years. During the exercise of his functions, David was appreciated by the chief for his efficiency, openness, alertness, and dignity. He settled all the complaints presented to him with justice.

After two years he went back to the mission post, where once again he demonstrated his devotion and unconditional attachment to his employers. In response, the missionaries conferred on him the responsibility of overseeing the female students who were housed in the mission dormitories. David fulfilled this task appropriately and conscientiously as a good Christian, firm in his positions but also exhibiting a well-developed ability to listen. He always abstained from personal disputes and remained submitted to his church.

Although certain young people had been trained especially to teach Sunday school, David Djoko was without doubt the best Sunday school teacher in the district. In addition, one could see in him an elevated sense of consideration for everybody.

David Djoko died at the Mukedi mission in 2003. He was believed to be more than 100 years old.

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