

The History of the Work of God in Burkina Faso

The growth of work in Burkina Faso started in 1983 when Apostle Schwarzer and the now Apostle Amoah traveled to Burkina Faso and established the work of God in the PO and Tiebele Districts, and also in Bobo. They also established congregations in Zabre and other areas near Tiebele. In 1993, District Apostle Wagner transferred me to Burkina Faso to continue with the work in Burkina Faso. From 1993, to the present day, most of the inactive congregations were revived in the Po and Tiebele Districts.

At present we have 46 congregations which mostly bring their offering reports each month. In 1997 the work of God started in the new area of Fada N'gruma and Tapoa Regions. It started when one brother by the name Koana Dadjori wrote me from Diapaga that he was in Niger, and had the opportunity to translate some of our New Apostolic Church booklets for the Germans District. It was there that he was introduced to the New Apostolic Church doctrine. Then, in the later part of 1997, he visited me with a brother, now a District Elder, and insisted that I visit them. So, by the permission of the Apostle George Van der Ploeg, in April 1998, I first visited this Region and the first souls were sealed and six congregations were established. Two months later, in June, I visited this new area again and this time, a total of ~~5~~⁷⁶ congregations were added to the first 6.

At first, we never thought to open more congregations because we were asked not to open new ones. Then later on many people visited us and attended the divine services with us. They then returned home and talked with their people, and requested the Priestly Ministry to come and visit them. Thus the work of God in Burkina Faso began to spread as a bush fire. Sometimes the guests lament why we should not visit them. Thus, at present we have 162 congregations and missions in Fada N'gruma and Tapoa regions. Some of the guests travel about 30 to 40 kilometers to attend nearby services. Already we have a series of invitations from Manga and Toma, which we have not yet honoured, but we hope in the near future, everything will be in order. That means we will visit these areas.

We have one Apostle, 2 district Elders, 3 District Evangelists, 5 Shepherds, 2 Rectors, 111 Priests, 72 Deacons, and 36 Sub-Deacons, bringing the total to 247 Ministers. The total number of members in Burkina Faso is approximately 22,000 members in 8 Districts.

In November 2000, we were invited to Accra, where Burkina Faso was placed under the care of District Apostle Wénd of Germany. Before the transition, the District Apostle Helper Nelson Kraus of Canada visited us 4 to 5 times a year and held Divine services with us in Burkina Faso.

A Report about the growth of work of God in Diapaga and Kali Districts

The work of God started in this Diapaga Region in early 1997, when one brother called Dadyoari Koana was invited to Niger by one German Apostle to translate the New Apostolic Church pamphlets, then in the French language into the local dialect Grunia which was widely spoken in Niger.

It was there that, after translating; he was convinced by the New Apostolic doctrine. After he returned home, he held discussions with one brother, Allegresse Ouaba. When he saw that he too, was convinced to become a member of the New Apostolic Church, he wrote me several letters, but I did not answer any of them because I did not make my mind to open a new area. He then wrote to the Germans to see if they could come and work in this region. They refused and told him that Burkina Faso was under the district of Canada and that I, Apostle Wuaku was in charge of Burkina Faso. Therefore, when I could not answer them and the Germans were not willing to work with them, in the latter part of 1997 they both traveled to Ouagadougou in search of me. Through days of contacts with people, they were finally led to my home. At first, I did not want to listen to them at all because of the distance and also because we were asked not to open new congregations. This time they told me if I will not come, they would go away and explain to the German Apostle again, and perhaps something could be done to them. It was this that compelled me to inform Apostle G, Van, He then told me to go but not to open many congregations.

Therefore in the early part of 1998, that is in ~~April~~^{July} of 1998, the first 6 congregations were established in this region of Tapoa (Diapaga). At first I thought to work with only these 6 congregations but in two months, 46 congregations were established, bringing the total number of congregations in this new region to 52 instead of 6 congregations I wanted to work with. Then the District Apostle Helper Nelson Kraus visited this new area and asked me not to open any new congregations any more. Up until now we are respecting this order.

But the problems we are now facing are that some people sometimes visit the already existing congregations, attend Divine Services with them for the period of one or two months sometimes, when they get our invitation booklets, they go back to their villages, build structures and cover them with leaves and start to hold Divine Services as they saw it in the previous congregations that they had already visited. If I am not mistaken, at present we have over 90 such places. Even in some places, they held services and brought their offerings to the District Office at Diapaga but it is difficult to accept these offerings because we did not want more new congregations. Sometimes they ask me hard questions- If I do not want them to be part of the First Resurrection and the kingdom of peace to come. About 3 weeks ago the District Evangelist in charge of this region was travelling to Ouagadougou to submit their offering for the month and some of these people crossed him on the way and asked him to visit their congregation

and hold service with them. He instead talked to them and explained to them that unless he discusses it with me, He could not hold Service with them as they wished. In places, people walk between 15 to 30 Kilometers to attend nearby services, In all these places, they question why we could not establish congregations for them so that they can attend services there.

We also have more regions. The first one is the region of Manga. It is 119 Kilometers from Ouagadougou, since 1998 they invited us, but in fact, we could not visit them. Another region invited us too, but we refused to go because we did not want to open more congregations. This region is called Toma, near Bobo. For example in Manga, the District Commissioner of Manga always telephoned the office in Ouagadougou, to see if we could come to Manga and establish the congregations there because they read most of our books and were interested to become members of the New Apostolic Church. In the region of Zabre, near Tiebele, I was told Apostle Amoah started 5 congregations there, but no one visited them any more. Due to the fact that no more congregations are needed, I turned down their request to visit them. These are the problems I do not know how to solve.

On September 13, 2000, the District Apostle Helper Nelson Kraus traveled to Burkina Faso. At present he asked us to open few congregations, but see to their development and not to rush too much. Also whenever Werner Seelisch

visited Burkina Faso, he would visit this new area and thus, in the case of the Seminar Program, things are getting better in this region.

During the recent trip of District Apostle Helper Nelson Kraus, he held Divine Services in Diaga Congregation and sealed also 15 souls and ordained 2 Shepherds for this area. Present at this Service was 210 members and guests. We hope he will travel to Kalibouli districts and on September 15, 2000 and we will return Ouaga. On September 16, 2000 he will travel to PO and Tiebele Districts before Finally leaving for South Africa, on September 18 or 19, 2000. In November, Werner Seelisch will be coming to Burkina Faso in the Upper East Region, (Bolga), and Mankessim. Much of his time will base on Seminar teachers and Sunday school teachers. I remain here and hope this report will be treated with much care.

Thanks,

Yours faithfully,

E. Wuaku