

DATING THE PENETRATION/ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST IN CAMEROON: ASSESSMENT AND NEW PROPOSALS

Francis Story Elele Noah

*Dmin candidate, Adventist University of Africa, Kenya
eleles2017@gmail.com*

Summary

After 100 years of the Adventist mission presence in Cameroon, one day i decided to examine the sources of it penetration and establishment in related publications. What are we celebrating? If presence of believers in Cameroon is since 1913. If official penetration is in April 14, 1927 not at November 1926. They are evidents of penetration in 1927. If establishment of mission Anderson and Huxtable build,a school,church and house since 1928. Evangelism and class started with Charlotte Jones since May 1928 with 103 pupils according to Yerežian report. Batouri station borned after an accident . it for was to adopt new dates because it is available on many journals.

Keys Words: Pioneer, Adventism, Cameroon.

Résumé

Après 100 ans de présence de la mission adventiste au Cameroun,un jour il m'a semblé utile d'examiner les écrits relatif à sa pénétration/établissement. Si nous célébrons la présence adventiste au Cameroun les archives nous révèlent que c'est depuis 1913. Si nous célébrons la pénétration officielle du premier missionnaire,elle a eu lieu le 14 avril 1927 et non Novembre 1926. si nous célébrons les premières constructions Anderson et Huxtable ont bâti une école, une chapelle et une résidence en 1928. Si nous célébrons le fonctionnement des institution Yerežian dit que Charlotte Jones avec trois moniteurs camerounais ont ouvert les classes en mai 1928 avec un effectif de 103 élèves. Il ya 3 lieux de pénétration au lieu de 2. Batouri est née suite a un accident planifié par le ciel, adoptons des vues disponibles .

Mots clés : Pionnier, Adventiste, Cameroun.

Introduction

The penetration of Seven Day Adventist church in Cameroon was related in education system by this words : Adventist mission are establish in Cameroon since 1928 first at Nanga Eboko, Yaounde, Boulou land and expanded their activities in the Northern Maroua,

Mokolo (Mveng 1968 page456). Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventist Church in 1976(pages 221-223), 1996(pages 279-281) says since November 1926 W. H. Anderson and T.M French came to Cameroon. The first publication by a Cameroonian relate to penetration/establishment is Gaston Joseph Nkou (1972 page 2) base on Revue Adventiste No 8,9,10, of 1971 by Pierre Maurice . Virgil Robinson(1968) says Anderson came twice in Cameroon as spy, choice of land and builder. 13 years later of Gaston Joseph Nkou, in master dissertation: un Paramètre de l'Histoire du Cameroun : la Mission Adventiste (1926-1949) Salvador Eyezo'o(1985 page29 and 1986 Page 2) chief Bessala Etong granted a plot of land. Finally in 2019, about 47 years later, Thérèse Mvoto published l'église Adventiste et Dynamique Sociale au Cameroun de 1928-2014(2019 page 132). There are many others dissertations with the same reference of November 1926 and others references not appropriate. In this study, let us with free of mind read again and reported what says pioneers W. H Anderson, T. M French, Robert Jones, T. R Huxtable, Marius raspal, Aimé Sallé administrators :L.R Coradi, W. H. Branson, W. E Read, L. H. Christian, L. L. Calviness and Craft Treasurer as W. B. Cummin, H. H. Cobban authors as Virgil Robinson, Pierre Maurice in their books and articles in European division Review, The Church Officers' Gazette, The African Division Outlook, Revue Adventiste , Review and Herald, Yearbook, Annual report,Missions Quaterly and others. Our method consists of reading articles published in newspaper of that time by the church. Searching information related to the penetration/ establishment of SDA in Cameroon: 1913-1932.

Definition of terms: ADO: The African Division Outlook. CUO: Seventh-Day Central Union Outlook. RA: Revue Adventiste. EDR: European Division Review. MQ: Mission Quaterly. RH: The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald. TCOG: The church Officers' Gazette. SDA: Seventh-Day Adventist, GC: general Conference.

Evident of Seventh Day Adventist believers in Cameroon around 1913.

The project To establish missionary station in German Cameroon is presented in this ways: from new year 1914 we have taken over from the American Mission board, British west Africa and the health station of the Canary island, calling for another 12 000\$. There is German Cameroon, Portuguese Angola, where we have three sabbath keepers ,who are loudly calling for workers...The call is urgent, the means are needed. God is anxious to give us his blessings. Young men and women are offering themselves for Service may God help us as a people to respond in this hour of need, that during the year 1914, all these fields may be provided with the necessary help and the new fields be opened(L.R Coradi, in EDR third trimester 1913 page 53).

Months later the same project is repeated : the letters have now risen from nine to twenty-one. It is especially cheering that one after another lights are beginning to shed forth their rays from all parts of Africa, and we can now see a little glimmer in Nigeria, Portuguese Angola, and German S. W. Africa, we hope also soon in new Cameroon(L.R Coradi in EDR first quarter 1914, page 3).

Elder T. M. French remember the European project years later during the first trip in German Cameroon and made it by: Brethren, we must not delay the work in the Cameroon. It was the plan of the European Division to send missionary into this country since 1914, but the great war prevented the opening of our work, and thirteen years have elapsed. We have lost years of time, and we must hasten with men and money for accomplishment of our task in this heathen land (T.M French in RH August 18 vol 104 No 33 ,1927 page 9).

Four years late because war and others difficulties, the organization of European Division in 1918 made the territory of Cameroon in West Africa mission; it is about the Colonies on the West Coast of Africa to the Cameroon :!(Yearbook 1927 page 152) headquarter address: S. D. A. Mission, Box 208, Coomassie, Gold Coast (Kumassi, Republic of Ghana), and West Africa. The

superintendent is L. F. Langford. German Cameroon was the limit of West Africa Union.

Missionary Project of Cameroon in African Division 1926.

In 1921-1922 the African Division president Elder W H. Branson takes ownership of the project of opening the mission in Cameroon : Four years ago, i reported that there was a stretch of over 3,000 miles of sea coast, reaching from Cape Town on the South to the Cameroons on the North, where so far as we knew a Seventh-day Adventist missionary had never made a footprint. Today, although many sections of this vast territory are still unentered, we have a union mission organization with headquarter in Angola, a beginning has been made in the establishment of permanent stations, and plans are rapidly developing for planting the banner of truth along this entire South-Western coast(RH 1926 page 22). In Paris on February 24, 1926 Elder Anderson declare in visit at Publishing house Damaris les Lys after the General Conference (Milwaukee May 27 to June 12 1926) i will be fixed in August at Equatorial Mission include Cameroon. He invited young people to be responded to the call for mission(RA 1926 page 7)

In 1926(RA 1926 page 3) plan for penetrated Cameroon are formulated, we are glad to report that additional progress is being made this year in occupying hither to unentered fields with the Message. Elders W. H. Anderson and T. M. French are planning to enter the great French Equatorial African country about December, for the purpose of arranging for the opening of our first station North of the equator, and on the border of the great Sahara desert, where at least eleven millions wait for the light. «French Equatorial Africa, including the Cameroon, contains over twelve million people. No adventist, so far as i can learn, has ever crossed the border. What a mighty challenge to us to annex new territory for God. If God spares my life and gives me health, i am going in there before the end of this year(RH 1926page 13).

Should we not attempt to open a chain of mission stations right up through the Northern Congo and the Cameroon until our workers can link hands with our British brethren in Nigeria? Branson asked the question earnestly. There was general agreement with the plan. But W. B. Commin, the practical minded treasurer, forcibly pointed out that the budget did not allow enough funds to open even one new station, let alone a number of them. The delegates discussed the problem at considerable length. Finally they voted to send T. M. French and W. H. Anderson ahead to spy out the land and locate sites on which missions could be opened when funds became available(Virgil 1968 page 127). only plan for the end year 1926 not trip, no action in union level(Angola) or South Africa in Division setting(South Africa).

Cameroon is under African Division 1920-1926.

Fourth Biennial Session of Southern Africa Division held at Johannesburg, May 17, to 23, 1927 they was 5 unions and 19 missions and conferences : South East Africa Union Mission, South Africa Union Conference, Zambesi union mission, Congo union mission, Equatorial Union Mission . Cameroon is under this equatorial union mission with William Harrison Anderson: Superintendent, Miss Ina L. Moore Secretary Treasurer, Dr. A. N. Tonge: Medical Secretary. Miss Ina L. Moore, Missionary Volunteer Secretary. Mrs. W. H. Anderson, Sabbath School Secretary. W. H. Anderson, Educational Secretary.

Money to establishment Nanga-Eboko 1926 and 1928

Perhaps we might particularly mention four additional families who are coming to this field, and whose coming was made possible by this additional grant of 11,401.59\$. As we look out over the field and wonder what it might mean for four families to go into new territory, we think of the possible accomplishment under the power and blessing of Heaven. . Brother R. L. Jones is on his way to Africa, and just as soon as conditions permit, he will proceed to that Northern field. Our prayers will go with Brother Jones(RH

1927 page page 21.) W.H Branson is Division president and W.B Cummin treasurer.

Appeal of H. H. Cobban assistant Treasurer of GC by presenting the letter of elder Anderson: help Africa a plea for liberal thirteenth sabbath offering(RH 1927 pages 8,9). The thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will be taken at the end of this quarter, is for Africa, and the brethren of the African Division have promised one fourth of the overflow to the union of which elder Anderson is superintendent...Another letter from elder Anderson to finance Cameroon project:... but what is that for eight million people in French Equatorial, and four millions more in the Cameroons?

Evidence of the missionary penetration of Cameroon on April 14, 1927.

1. Thomas Marion French reported on the trip to Cameroon with this title investigating in the Cameroon Africa. On morning April14,1927 the French steamer, Europe, cast anchor in the beautiful harbor of Douala Cameroons. The passengers were landed at Douala by a lighter, and elder William Harrison Anderson and the writer had their first introduction to the Cameroon (T. M French in RH August 18 vol 104 No 33 ,1927 page8,9) .

2. William Harry Anderson did not mentioned the date during the first trip with T. M. French, but with elder Huxtable in 1928 during the second trip he writes: On February 1928 in the Nanga-Eboko place : we must open the two missions in French Equatorial Africa that we selected when elder French and i were there last year; it is about 1927 (Anderson in RH May 10, 1928 page 10). They was together in 1927 as team workers.

3. William Harrison Anderson' biography presented by Virgil E. Robinson states yhat they arrived in April14 1927(Virgil 1968 page 121)

4. The adventist journal publish a series of articles in July, September and October titled : Sur les Traces de Livingstone Histoire d'un Grand Pionnier Adventiste: Willian Harrisson

Anderson. The last part of article says in 1927, Pierre Maurice mentioned that it is an adaptation of Virgil E. Robinson book. (Pierre Maurice in RA October 1971page 17)

5. By doing the math on T.M. French declaration : it was the plan of the European Division to send missionary into this country since 1914, but the great war prevented the opening of our work, and thirteen (13)years have elapsed. In application $1914+13=1927$ (T. M French in RH June 30 Vol 104, No 33 page 9).

6. The annual report of GC in 1926 says: SDA message is present in 126 countries(Statistic year ending December 31, 1926 page 2,14),Cameroon is absent in the list. But in 1927 this work is now conducted in 127 countries(SDA Statistical report ending Year December31, 1927 page2,5) . The only progress in the world is Cameroon.

Table comparative list of country in witch evangelist works is being conducted by the SDA denomination in Africa, according to annual statistic of GC 1926- 1927.

New country	Africa in 1926	Africa in 1927
Cameroon	Abyssinia Algeria Angola Basutoland Bechuanaland Belgian Congo British S. Africa Egypt Eritrea Gallaland Gold Coast Kenya Colony Liberia	Abyssinia Algeria Angola Basutoland Bechuanaland Belgian Congo British S. Africa Cameroon Egypt , Eritrea Gallaland Gold Coast Kenya Colony

	Madagascar	Liberia
	Mauritius	Madagascar
	Morocco	Mauritius
	Nigeria	Morocco
	Nyasaland	Nigeria
	Rhodesia	Northern <i>Rhodesia</i>
	Sierra Leone	Nyasaland
	Southwest Africa	Sierra Leone
	Tanganyika Territory	Southern Rhodesia
		Tanganyika Territo

Establishment of Nanga-Eboko in 1928 by W.H. Anderson and T. R . Huxtable.

Facing this problem squarely, the division committee decided that someone should precede the missionaries to Nanga-Eboko and build a house for them. The next question was, who should go? There was one logical choice, but the chairman hesitated. Brother Anderson, do you feel a burden to undertake this journey again? The veteran missionary smiled. Mr Chairman, i am ready to go anywhere at any time at the call to this committee. But in order to make my visit to station most effective, i should take an expert builder with me. It was voted that T.R. Huxtable a worker who had come to Angola the previous year, should accompany Anderson (Virgil 1968 page127). The summary of establishment of Seventh-Day Adventist in Cameroon is related inside reports of the two pioneers in their various letters. Elder William Anderson reports the new trip in four letters and in four different places : Longana (Angola December 25, 1927), Libreville (Gabon January 6, 1928), Douala (Cameroon Sunday January 29, 1928) and Nanga Eboko (Cameroon February 12, 1928). Elder T. R. Huxtable says that they left Lepi (Angola) in December 15, 1928 to Cameroon . All about establishment of the first mission in Cameroon land. I have hired 50 boys at five Shillings a month and they board themselves. The start work tomorrow morning. We will put up a temporary place for brother and sister Jones' which

can later used for servants' quarters. Also we are putting up a temporary church and school building. The total cost of two building will be about £25, the house dimension is 14/48ft(ADO May 15 page 2, letter on Nanga- Eboko February 12, 1928 and ADO September 13, 1928 page 2).

Nanga-Eboko land : a donation of traditional ruler or governor responsibility?

The following Sunday morning we started out to find the site for the mission. Went East of here about seven kilometers. We saw only one likely place, but it was a little too far from the main village, and was located between two Catholic catechist schools, so we didn't want to infringe too much on them. Monday morning we came over West of Nanga-Eboko about two kilometers, and found the site we have chosen for the mission. It is quite high above the surrounding country, and, for the inost part, lies fairly level, rolling a bit with large ant hills here and there. The ground looks fertile. We were fortunate enough to survey the whole **site** without including a single native house, and only one or two small gardens. We passed the map and our applications in to the Chef of the Post the following Friday, February 10 (1928). This is the 6th of March(1928) and we have had no word back from them. We know the place has not been advertised yet, for the papers have not come back here. (Huxtable in ADO September 13,1928 page 2).

Monday, January 30, we took the train for Yaounde, arriving there that evening just at dark. The next two days we spent collecting our stuff, seeing the government officials and preparing for our trip to the bush. Elder Anderson had an interview with the Governor and tried to, get him to give us permission to go ahead making brick and getting out stone for our house here, but he absolutely refused to allow us to move a peg until the concession had been granted, and the papers passed on to us. He instructed us to select a site, survey the ground and make a map of it, and write out our application in triplicate. The map and application were to be handed to the chef of the post here in Nanga-Eboko,

and he was to inspect them and pass them on to the Governor. Then if there were no obvious objections to the grant, it would be advertised for one month in Yaounde, and also here, to see if anyone might have a prior claim to the land. If not, then they would take action regarding the granting of our concession. Thursday, February 2(1928) we left Yaounde by truck for Nanga-Eboko. (Huxtable in ADO September 13,1928 page 2)

We have pegged out our claim of 50 hectares (125 acres) near the motor road, with a motor road leading off the main road right to our door. We have submitted our plans to the local government official, and they have been approved by him. Now they have gone to the governor for his approval, and then the land is ours. The governor assured me that he would grant our request, as we have located in the place that he suggested to us. Tomorrow we will start putting up a temporary schoolhouse, as we do not have the funds to build a permanent one. As soon as we receive our reply from the governor, we will start at once on a permanent house for Brother and Sister Jones. (Anderson in RH May 1928 page 10.)

Robert L. and Charlotte Jones with baby.

Elder Robert Jones, Charlotte and baby workers of Nanga-Eboko, is the son of Dr. Jones, of your Boulder Sanitarium of Washington(CUO March 6,1928page 1). In an interview before leaving America to Cameroon : « do you know that the country of the Cameroon is in no way a healthful place? Oh, yes we know. Do you folds realize that West Africa is known to be the white man's grave, and that privation and many hardships are ahead of you? Yes, we knows that we shall have to face many difficulties and perhaps death itself, but we are willing to go and work for the Lord wherever he calls us(RH 1927 page 5). Charlotte and Robert Jones, who have been spending several months in France studying the French language, will soon be located in one of them, and thus a beginning will be made. He made the first class in May 1928 (MQ second quarter 1932, page 14) witch 103 children in school, with

ninety-four (94) had entered the hearers class preparing for baptism»(Anderson in RH 1929 page10. letter of Jones to Anderson on august 20th) .They are 3 natives teachers in supervision of Charlotte Jones(RA July 1929 page14). Jones made the first report of evangelism in this way : we have been a little over a month, but already we have seen the results of God's working. We found here about a dozen professing christian not belonging to any Church, who drifted out from protestant mission nearer the coast...God is also working with those yet in heathen darkness. In our last public service (we hold a service each Sunday), Sixteen asked for special instruction in the way of life surely this is not the work of on month(ICOG November1928 page 16).He build hospital, and Marius Raspal made in RA: Jones started a permanent building for European at one metre in March 1929 before arrival of Marius Raspal. and he left Nanga- Eboko for Angola (Equatorial Union headquarter).

Establishment of Batouri in 1930: an accident in God Plan.

In February 1930, brother Craft, Calviness and Raspal were traveling by car to Bangui when an a dangerous accident curve in the road their car turned over. No one was killed and no bones where broken but the were forced to stay in the government hospital at Batouri. The met a native American missionary's home in Gabon. She had learned to speak English and after returning to Batouri and getting married had build a little chapel where 50-60 peoples were attending her services... We want a European missionary here, won't you take care of this little chapel group?... Because station we are far, the French commissioner gladly gave us a grant of land.(Mission Quaterly 1932 page10 and RA 1930 page 10) . First native teacher Michel was send to a school and church before . In June 1931 Sallée family came in Batouri(RA 1931). Calviness published a letter of Sallée where he says during the November 11th celebrations, the administrator (governor)ask me if we would be willing to build a chapel in the village Batouri. He was prepared to help us secure a suitable location with his

approval. Because we are a little from the village 2500 meters (Sallée in RA February,1932 page 14). Michel by will of Sallée was first camerounian to write an article in RA and give more information about Batouri.

Missionaries trips in Cameroon 1913-1932.

Before 1914 there was presence of Seventh Day Adventist believer in the land, the send letter to European division for establishment of mission(EDR vol 2,no 3 third quarter 1913 page 53).

Douala morning of April 14, 1927 Elder William H. Anderson and Thomas M. French official entrance in Cameroon(RH vol 104 no 33, August 18, 1927page 8).

Douala January 18, 1928, William H. Anderson and T.R. Huxtable entrance for building school, church,house of Robert Jones during 5 months(ADO May 1, 1928 page 3).

Douala March 1928, Robert L. and Charlotte Jones and baby work one year.

Douala March 21, 1929 Marius Raspal with wife(RA July 15, 1927page 13-14).

Douala October 1929 Zaré Yeretzian and family(MG 1932 page 15).

Bekura Southern West Cameroon December 1929 E. GJI a lay man come from Kalabar Nigeria(SDA Encyclopedia vol 10 page 279-281).

Douala February 16, 1930 L. L. Calviness and Craft visited Cameroon, Ubangui Chari and foundation of Batouri in special way after an accident. (RA August 1, 1930,page 10-11 and MQ 1950 page 10)

Northern Cameroon afternoon of January 20, 1930 W. E. Read and L. H. Christian as spy(RH Vol 108,No 27, July 2,1931 page 11.)

Douala, October 8, 1930 Aimé and Stine Sallée (RA February 15, 1931page 11)

Northern Cameroon, in 1931 families Ruben Bergtrom and Anna(Sweden), Bjarne Rost and wife (Norway) and W. E Read for as first missionaries with Matakam tribe in mountains. (MQ

second quarter 1950, page 20). The five of us stood and look on the burning mass, thankful to God that while the house was gone, our goods and also our lives were saved(RH July 2, 1931 page 11).

Douala, February 1932 Jacques Erzberger family (secretary and treasurer, health) and Wuillemine Suzanne Cornaz(education,) in (RA March 1, 1932 page 12). First administration.

Cameroon Mission under two divisions and two unions 1918-1929.

1918-1926 Cameroon is looking by two divisions: European division and South Africa Division. Between two unions; West Africa Mission and Equatorial union missions, progress by two leaders: William Harry Anderson and L. F. Langford. Working through two nations Angola and Ghana. Cameroon is confuse by the languages: English, Portuguese and French. The African Division committee in Claremont Cape hold the project and Equatorial union missions in Angola executed establishment. The chosen Brother and sister Higgins of Massachusetts to another place in Cameroon over 1000 miles from Jones(ADO June 15, 1928 page 2). The pointed before December 1928 C. W. Bozart with family as superintendent for Cameroon(ADA August 1928 page 12)

1927-1929 South Africa division through Equatorial union missions in Angola established the first mission by 3 Trips in the land and using 5 missionaries. 15-22 August 1928 at Darmstadt city in Germany, European division are divided in 4 territories and made Cameroon land in administration of Southern European Division with their beginning January 1929(RA 1928, page 2). On 22-30 January 1929 at Gland Switzerland, first committee and first organization of division in 3 New locals fields missions : Cameroon in French equatorial Africa mission with Marius Raspal as superintendent(RA 1932 page 12 and MQ 1950 page 6) .

Yaounde as headquarter of Union: William Harry Anderson vision in 1928.

From 1929 to 1941 Cameroon is a Mission under Southern European division. Since 1942 to 1948 because of economic conditions, the French Equatorial mission was administrated by General conference (MQ 1950 page 15). Now in January 1, 1949, «Yaounde is to serve as headquarter for the new mission, which includes Mauritanian, Senegal, French Guinea, Niger, Chad, the Cameroon, Ubangi Shari, Middle Congo and Spanish Guinea (MQ 1950 page 6). This union was the accomplishment of will or prophecy (when he move at Yaounde) made by W. H. Anderson since 1928 « i believe that the headquarter of the union should be in Yaounde. There is the seat of the government for the Cameroon, the plateau and much cooler and healthier than Douala (ADO May 15, 1928 page 2). Today is Yaounde and Ngaoundere with 170 000 believers

Conclusion.

The pioneers and administrators reported in the Adventist newspapers of their time that the Adventist presence in Cameroon predates 1914, thus the project of penetration/establishment. There were Three zones of penetration: Douala, Bekura and Far North 1930. Three major mission stations were establish. The acquisition of land for mission was an agreement will of the administrative authorities not the will of the village or tribal chief as we see it in three report from Nanga Eboko, Batouri and far North. Families from Anderson to Erzberger risked their lives to bring the Adventist message to Cameroon. Writers on the history of SDA in Cameroon have limited access to sources of information. Some have refused to even read the sources available to them. It was my desire to read the reports of the pioneers that led me to an abundant literature made available by general conference. Praise be to God.

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