

## **PASTOR LUISA MATEUS**

### **Report #A06**

#### **SURVEY**

Pastor Luisa Mateus was one of the top three female pastors identified in our Angola survey as having the most impact (among the top 25 pastors in the country), with several respondents indicating they had been personally influenced by her more than by anyone else. She is approximately 45 years old.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Luísa Mateus is a pastor at the *Estalagem* Parish and Secretary of the Provincial Synod of Luanda, Bengo, Cuanza Sul and Cunene of the Reformed Evangelical Church of Angola (Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola – IERA). Luísa Mateus works daily with the youth, women, men and children in the Parish and the Provincial Synod in the Christian fraternity, preaching, training and instructing the members for a life of true image of Christ. She dedicates most of the time training the youth leaders, women, men and Sunday school to intensify evangelism to reach more souls for Christ and to transform the believers in the true image of Christ.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Home of Childhood***

Luísa Mateus, the firstborn daughter of Mateus Lembe and of Moza Carlos, whose parents are still alive, spent her childhood in the village of New Kinzala, Municipal district of Mukaba, Province of Uíge. Her childhood home was the parents' house, where she received the whole necessary affection. She felt and still feels a lot of pride for her parents for the way she was cherished independently, despite not having everything, because nobody can give what they do not have. She recognizes that she has received all that was in the reach of her parents although they worked from home, the love and the affection, helped her to be what she is today, and it was thanks to the parents' efforts. She had influences during childhood, as for instance, the incentive received from the parents to value the studies so that one day she could become an important person in the family and wider community. They taught her to have the spirit of valuing what one has in hand even if it is little, because what is too much is not ours. She also learned at her parents' home, to respect what belong to others. During childhood, her grandfather did have a lot of patience to teach her the Word of God, the Sunday prayer and other verses; for instance: who created you? Where is God? Who is God? Her grandfather was the first Bible teacher in the village and greatly influenced her positively. Her childhood was happy and in a Christian family.

##### ***Country of Residence***

Luísa Mateus was born in Angola, and she has never lived in another Country for more than three months, just spent two months in the city of São Paulo, Federal Republic of Brazil, where she went in a training course on migrations in CESEP.

### ***Current Family***

Luísa Mateus is married to her Choir colleague from the theological training and the pastoral ministry. This relationship resulted in 4 children: a boy and three girls. Her family collaborates greatly in her ministry. Their children are part of her Church, and they worship together; the boy is part of the Church's choir. Her husband's involvement in her ministry has been positive. Since both are pastors of the same evangelical denomination, they help each other mutually.

### ***Education history***

Luísa Mateus received the primary, high school education and the theological education in Angola. The nature and the source of support of her education came from the family, the Church, and international partners. From 1975 to 1981 she attended and finished with success the primary education at the Municipal School of Mukaba. Due to the lack of secondary schools in Mukaba she was transferred to the city of Uíge and from 1981 to 1984, she studied grade 5 to grade 9 in the Preparatory School and School of Uíge, respectively. Living in the city of Uíge as a student created good friendships; she met several friends that gave her many positive influences, gave her strength during that period as a student in the city of Uíge. However, she recognizes that her residence in the city of Uíge as a student was a bit of a difficult period because being out and distant from her parents, she had to do small businesses to get some money to buy school material; although living with her aunty, that didn't also have enough conditions to sustain the niece's studies. It was a period of needs, but with great effort, she concluded grade 9. From 1988 to 1994 she attended Seminário Emanuel Unido (SEU) in Huambo, the Medium Course of Theology, this course influenced her significantly, and it helped her to open her intellect and to deepen a little on the theoretical and practical of the science that studies God. In that training, she acquired that helped her to have a healthy ministry and to know the norms of coexistence in the community. It helped her also to create new friendships.

### ***Testimony and personal call***

Luisa Mateus was baptized on June 11, 1977, in Old Kinzala, Mukaba, in the Province of Uíge. She recognizes that God has been working a lot in her life. Because she already had several difficult situations that personally she couldn't solve, but as it is said that God writes right in crooked lines, He has been helping her to find the solution to the problems. Luísa knows that God's call in her life is very real, by the signs and wonders that accompanied it. She got to the conclusion that God continues using her as an instrument, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is difficult for her to explain in a more detailed way how she felt the call of God because it was a long process, and how she began to notice later that God wanted to use her as His instrument. She had for three times dreams in which she was taken to a city very beautiful, a city she has never been before in which there was a reserved apartment for her. In some moments, she dreamed being in the middle of a crowd praying and teaching the Word of God, and she felt flying as if she was a dove. Those dreams began to open her mind, and she noticed that God was preparing her. In the year of 1981, being in the city of Uíge as a student she joined the choir of UJC - Union of the Youths in Christ, where after one year, in September, still a twelve-year-old, a teenager, she was chosen the leader of the same group. The choir imbued in her many positive things, like unity, love and respect among choir members, treating them as brothers. This encouraged her a lot and gave her incentive to make the decision to follow and serve him as Lord. Finally, the moment arrived that she had to go to the Province of Huambo for theological education, where she joined Huambo's women's ministry for pastoral training, from 1988 to

1994. At the end of the course, she attended two years pastoral apprenticeship, in the Municipal District of Songo, Province of Uíge, in the middle of the war after 1992 elections that devastated the Country. The year of 1993, on September 9 she was consecrated a pastor at the Reformed Evangelical Church of Angola in Kikaya, Province of Uíge. After this consecration, she was transferred and joined her husband in the Province of Cabinda where she became the pastor for the community. In that Province, she went through a lot of difficulties, mainly diseases that forced her to return to Luanda. In Luanda, in 1999, she was inducted as Director of the Department of the Society of Woman of IERA in the Provincial Synod of Luanda. She carried out that function for eight years. In that Department, she gained a lot of experiences, acquired through the permanent contact with the women in several activities. This experience allowed her to continue developing her pastoral ministry.

### ***Influences***

The male leader that influenced pastor Luisa Mateus is Priest José António. His Christian character, his work experiences, his dedication, qualities and his example in the pastoral ministry influenced Luisa. A female person that influenced her positively is Deolinda Dorcas Teca, current Christian Churches Council General Secretary in Angola (CICA). From a young age, Teca has been an important person in her life until today in her ministry. Teca was her teacher, she learned a lot from her and continued being a great force in her pastoral ministry, she admires her qualities.

## **CURRENT MINISTRY AND CALL**

### ***Work/Ministry***

Reverend Luísa Mateus is a Pastor at the Km12 Parish in *Estalagem* and occupies the position of Secretary of the Provincial Synod of Luanda, Bengo, South Kwanza, Cunene and Dondo, headquartered in Luanda, at the Reformed Evangelical Church of Angola-IERA. As her occupation duty spends her time guiding the evangelism work, Christian education and administration of the Provincial Synod.

### ***Mission and Vision***

As pastor of the Parish and Secretary of the Synod her mission is proclaiming the Word of God for salvation as Jesus said in Mathews chapter 28 verse 19 and following. Her purpose is that the world believes that Jesus is the Son sent by God, the Lord and the humanity's Savior. And her personal vision is to edify already evangelized believers to turn them into Christ's true image in the world.

### ***Organization***

She works at the Reformed Evangelical Church of Angola (IERA); her relationship with this organization is as its leader. She lives for the gospel by the Gospel, just as the Word of God says. From time to time she receives logistic support from the Christian community and sometimes has been receiving financial support for administrative work.

### ***Impact, Success and Assessment***

By the assessment made about her work and mission, Luísa assures that she has had positive results. She reached and served an approximate number of 650 people; success is happening through meditation on the Word of God and prayer.

### ***Training and Leadership Development***

Luísa as pastor and Provincial Secretary is very involved in leadership training. At the level of Synod, she works with the pastors, influences them, organizing activities as biblical studies, lectures of several themes, training seminars, etc. The pastors on their turn influence the Parishes and Classes. As pastor of the Parish she works with the groups: Women's Society, Men's Society, Youth and the Sunday school, also supplying the several themes to facilitate the spiritual growth of all members. That requires courage above all because no work can be made and have good results without courage. Prayers, fasting, total self-dedication are other very important factors because the Church needs them as impulse forces.

### ***Professional relationships***

Pastor Luísa is a member of *Pastors Fraternal Association* of the Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA) and National Council of IERA's Pastors. Consequently it is linked to the Provincial Council of IERA's Pastors. She makes an effort so that her participation in those associations is effective and productive.

### ***Partnerships and Connections***

The organizations that have a strategic partnership and connection with the Reformed Evangelical Church of Angola (IERA) are the Missionary Department of French Switzerland (DM) o Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA) and the *Aliança Evangélica de Angola* (AEA). It benefits from the moral support from the partners of the IERA Missionary Department, and in spiritual and financial terms. The partnership with CICA results in the extent of reinforcement of ecumenism, the benefits are technical and in terms of services. With AEA the partnership consists of the fact of improving the ecumenism with the evangelical churches, the benefits are in terms of Service. She would like to work with good and serious people that can contribute largely to the development and people with responsibility. She would not work with people that create barriers and obstacles in the work and without the desire to contribute to the good.

### ***SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats***

For pastor Luísa Mateus the strengths are all of the human, materials, goods, infrastructural opportunities and land that is part of the process of the development of the Church. As Secretary of the Provincial Synod, the strengths are the human resources with which she works (men, women and young that assist her), her education in theology and her education in Economics and Law. The weaknesses are the lack of transports, lack of financial resources capable of covering the expenses, breach of some members in the fulfilling their contributions for the development of the Church. The opportunity is the possibility to study. And the threats are the lack of workers, disintegration of the community and conflicts in the Church.

### ***Reading and Writing***

Luísa Mateus likes to read a lot mainly authors of her interest. She likes reading and understands the author's thought. And among the many authors that she has been reading, that influenced the most are the African authors, works which I have been reading a lot, for instance, the Bishop Mata Maurisca, Bishop of the Diocese of Uíge of the Catholic Church and African Biblical Commentary. About the subject of writing any literary work, she is not involved in any writings at the moment. Therefore, she knows that the literature is very important because it helps us to enrich our intellect.

### ***Electronic Media***

On the subject of electronic media, the pastor has been having more interest in using the internet and telephone. In relation to the email and the Facebook, she would like to use more the email because with the email she can correspond with anybody close or distant.

### ***Finances and other Resources***

The pastor has been making efforts to obtain funds to sustain the programs. We know that the Church is an organization composed of members from different walks of life. We also know that for a long time the Republic of Angola went through a war that made families poorer and as a result, these families moved and agglomerated in Luanda, the political center and the capital of the Country. Those members, even in their difficulties, many of them sell paraffin, peanut (ginguba) toast, Bombó, banana and other products. In that way, they get to have some resource to take to the Church and give thanks to God, with offerings. These few resources that have been receiving are the ones that are being managed to minimize some problems or situations that hinder the development, or to sustain the administration of the Church. Because they are not funds that can cover all of the expenses just as we already said, but they help to minimize some problems.

### ***Political Arena***

Luísa doesn't advise Christian to be involved 100% in the politics, although it is important for the Christians to know a little about the politics, in the citizens' quality, in order not to miss anything that is important. She defends the political impartiality of Christians and does not encourage party militancy due to our delicate political arena. For her, the better way to influence the society as the salt of the earth and the light of the world is to be moderate in our political involvement and to be more a kind of moral referee.

### ***Future***

She has plans for writing a work one day by the illumination that God will grant her because there is a saying that says that the people die, but the works remain then it is necessary that she does something so that the future generations can have something done by her.

### ***Questions for Pastors: How are you influential as a pastor?***

The respect for the people, the way she leads the people, because she respects all human being, rich or poor, and on the other hand in the preaching of the Word of God. She has been preaching the Word of God as many times as necessary and in any situation where it necessary her presence to testify the Word of God, then she preaches. Because the mission that we received is to preach the Gospel in every moment, until the boundaries of the earth.

***Preparation of this Report***

1. Interview with pastor Luísa in Luanda, by Pastor José Paulo Bunga, on February 21, 2014.
2. Transcribed the interview, Mr. Blancharo Toni, on 5 of Março of 2014.
3. Elaborated the Report, Pastor José Paulo Bunga, in Luanda, on 07 of March of 2014.