

**ADONAI MISSION INTERNATIONAL IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
(AMI-CAR)
Report #C09**

SURVEY

In our CAR survey, the fifth most frequently listed organisation that people felt was having a strategic impact was Adonai Mission International (AMI), a missionary training institution rated highly for preparing leaders.

HISTORY

Adonai Mission International (AMI) is an inter-denominational agency with evangelism, discipleship, missionary training and humanitarian service as its purpose. It came to Central African Republic (CAR) in 1996 and operated initially as a branch of Christian Missionary Foundation (CMF) with its Headquarters in Nigeria. CMF is represented in different countries, namely: Cameroun, Chad, Nigeria and to a smaller degree in West Africa. From 1996 to 1997 a problem arose: the Christian Missionary Foundation only sustained the ministry in countries with a Muslim majority and did not want to establish an office in CAR because theoretically it has 80% Christians. In other words, there was no reason for the CMF to continue its activities in CAR. Georges Edet OFFONG, a CMF missionary at the time, observed CAR's situation and insisted that this Agency must be established there to sustain churches with discipleship training, sending and follow-up of native missionaries in CAR and the sub-regions. Therefore, AMI was created in CAR to carry on the primary mission which is missionary training.

MISSION/VISION

AMI's purpose is to work in partnership with the Christian body in "motivating workers for the end time mission," especially in Central and Northern Africa. The vision of AMI is to:

- Motivate all local churches towards strong, courageous, Holy Spirit filled disciples who have a mission spirit;
- Reach out to villages without churches, particularly those in the 10/40 window;
- Train, equip and send missionaries to unreached peoples and groups;
- Reach all layers of the society with the Gospel, children and youths in particular.

Adonai Mission International realises its vision and mission through the:

- Establishment of Bible training centres where lives are transformed through the teaching of the Word of God;
- Preparation of missionaries for the Twenty-first Century through an International School of Mission;
- Establishment of Good News clubs and Bible training centres for children;
- Establishment of professional training centres for widows, orphans and those who escape and leave prostitution;
- Training of families on marital life and teaching God's purpose in the marriage through women's ministry;
- Sending and sustaining missionaries working among the unreached;

- Offering short-time mission opportunities to Ministers of God, students and professionals to use their competencies and gifts where there is a need.

Statement of Faith

Adonai Mission International believes that:

- The Bible is the inspired, unique unfailing and authoritative Word of God.
- There is one everlasting God who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus-Christ is God (Son), born from a virgin, His purifying blood, physical resurrection, ascension and sitting at the Father's right hand and His personal second coming in power and glory.
- In the spiritual unity of believers through our Lord Jesus-Christ.
- In the salvation of the lost and the regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential.
- In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit who is dwelling in and empowering Christians to live a sanctified life and working for Jesus-Christ.
- In the resurrection of those saved for the resurrection to life.
- The Grace of God is the way to salvation for man and not good deeds.
- God ordains His Church to worship Him in Spirit and in truth and love, and demonstrate faithful management and preach the Gospel of Christ in the entire world.

Adonai Mission International activities in CAR

AMI is represented all over CAR. It is present in almost all the prefectures of CAR as well as in South Sudan in Yambio. It also has representation in DRC, a national office in Gbadolite and a missionary in Gemena (DRC). In the sub-region of Congo Brazzaville, there is a national office which is in Pointe Noire with a missionary who is managing a Bible training centre.

Disciple Training

AMI offers discipleship training. The training is extended to lay people as well as all ministers.

Training of Ranked Employees

Regarding reaching the high personalities with God's Word, AMI organises training for employees and certain government members. They also started a mid-week prayer time from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm, once or twice per month to teach the officials the Word of God. This way CAR's army officials and high administration employees are trained. AMI also has a children's department, a legacy which extends its wings in all areas where missionaries are assigned.

Training for Women Missionaries

In addition to discipleship training, high placed employees, youth and children, AMI also trains women who are committed to their integration and mobilisation for the mission, since women also support the mission. AMI has a Christian organisation for economic development to help Christians to invest in activities that will support the mission. AMI has a Literature department, a youth department, in short, all activities are implemented to mobilise all these categories of people for the mission.

Church Planting Institute

AMI has a Church Planting Institute, which is concerned with training, sending and follow-up of church planters in CAR, South Sudan, DRC, Congo Brazza and Rwanda and elsewhere in the central African sub-region.

Missionary Conferences

AMI organises a missionary conference annually to equip missionaries and give them the opportunity to testify of what they are doing on the ground amongst the different unreached population and to motivate partners to support the mission.

Social Actions and Professional Training for Girls

In addition to spiritual interest, AMI is involved in social activities, especially with girls previously involved in prostitution. They make professional training available for them and promote their insertion in the family and social life.

Evangelisation

In fact, Villages and unreached populations are the targets for evangelization. AMI is involved in evangelism through the network of church planters and missions.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR FOCUS/MISSION

A number of churches, for instance, *Coopération Evangélique*, has a missionary department led by Pastor Yoro Gaston. There is also a mission department at *Union des Eglises Baptistes (UFEB)* supervised by Pastor Kaparang and those who are interested in mission among the Fulani and Muslims. Some missionary agencies, like Campus Crusade and the *Association Centrafricaine pour la Traduction de la Bible (ACTABA)* has translators who work in the provinces. Although they do Bible translations, they are also missionaries who are working in the field.

What makes the difference between AMI and other organisations? AMI is not limited only to training. But, after equipping missionaries, she sends them in the missionary field, supports them, and follows them up.

CURRENT LEADER

The current leader of AMI is Adolphe Sana Tiya-misi. After his primary school in France, he came back to CAR. He did his primary school at the Bangui High School Barthelemy Bogana and after his Baccalaureate, he went to the University where he studied Management and got a Bachelor's Degree. He also did Business Administration in Iraq for six years, which opened the way for him to work for 15 years in the Central African Textile Factory (UCATEX) as a Manager of the technical production office. He also worked for ten years with the NGO Africare, which is an African-American NGO that assists Sudanese refugees in the extreme East of CAR. He occupied the position of Assistant Accountant to the Representative of the NGO. It was during this period that he began his training in discipleship at AMI for two years. After his training, AMI appointed him as the intercessory leader. Shortly after that, he was given the

position of AMI Begoua Bible Center. He then coordinated 72 AMI missionaries who were on the field. And finally, he was appointed the National Director of AMI since 2010.

For what concerns his strength, Mr Adolphe Sana is, first of all, a servant of God who is competent in the area of Management, and also he is very sensitive to people's needs.

BOARD STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

The AMI Board of Director is made up of ecclesiastical personalities and lay people who are elected by a General Assembly that is held once a year. The Board, on its part, meets twice per semester to follow up AMI decisions and motivate partners to support the mission.

The Board's Chairman is General Bombayeke, who is, at the same time, President of Christ-Roi Church Board. There is also a Vice President, Pastor Bengba Marcel of the *Association des Eglises de Réveil en Centrafrique*. Therefore, a combination of Pentecostals and Baptists are represented on the Board with the gender concept which is well respected. There is indeed a parity between men and women which compose the Board.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

The composition of AMI personnel is as follow: Secretary to Director, Accountant, Technical Chief (Dean) of Department, and two watchmen -- these form the staff with a salary. AMI also has a voluntary team made of lay people who come to help. They work in the Evangelism, Women's Ministry, Praise and Worship, and Intercession Departments. The missionary department supervises the 72 missionaries who are working on the 24 mission fields.

BOARD AND STAFF RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

It must be noted that Board members and the staff are recruited during the General Assembly. They are selected from among the students trained at AMI or elsewhere, and from the missionaries. The requirement for them is to have the burden and desire to do the work.

SHAREHOLDERS

It must be said that the shareholders of AMI are churches and Christian organisations. The interaction between them is very well because churches understand that Adonaï does not establish churches though it runs a Church Planting Institute.

FINANCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

Regarding their financial situation, AMI's resources come from local and external partners. There are churches in Nigeria and the USA that support a couple of missionaries. For instance, those working in Congo Brazza are supported by USA partners and certain individuals. During the annual meetings called missionary conferences, there are also persons who pledge to support missionaries working among unreached populations. In this way, AMI encourages people to support the mission. It must be pointed out that an experienced financial department manages

finances. When AMI receives money from its partners, they take out 10% to support other missionary agencies, like BEST, ACATBA and Campus Crusade. Finally, AMI has an annual budget and expenses which must be approved by the Board. A report is made on a quarterly basis.

PARTNERSHIPS/LINKS

AMI works in direct partnership with Elim Church and Central African Government. There are foreign organisations like UNICEF, who assists in the AMI Vocational College for Girls. There is also a social action of FOMAC that contributed to the construction of a Vocational College for Girls, and finally, FUNUAP, that also partners with AMI.

AMI is not primarily looking for a financial partnership, but rather for a unified vision, because it creates strength as well as human resources. For instance, it provides qualified teachers for its Bible training centres in the provinces as well as in Bangui.

Finally, AMI does not want to be confined within the walls of a certain local church or denomination. On the contrary, Adonai prefers to work with the entire body of Christ in reaching its purpose and heavenly vision, meaning to bring God's glory to cover the whole CAR like water covers the bottom of the sea (Hab 2.14).

SWOT: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

What makes AMI strong is its determination to do mission work everywhere, no matter the environment. Adonai is not only limited to CAR but also wants to reach the sub-region. Thus, for AMI, there is no geographical limitation, because where the Lord wants Adonai to go, it should go. Apostle Paul said, "When I am weak, it is then I am strong". AMI also has weaknesses, for example, it does not have enough resources to sustain all the missionaries. Another challenge AMI faces is to come to the point of bringing local churches to the understanding - especially in the provinces - that its purpose is not to be a hindrance to them. On the contrary, AMI is there to work in partnership with them to reach the unreached and those who have not yet received the Gospel. Finally, when the time comes where there will be free movement of merchandise and people, it will be an opportunity for AMI to bring God's Gospel where it is not yet proclaimed.

IMPACT/SUCCESS/ASSESSMENT

The training of many disciples and the declining of witchcraft in Bangassou for example, constitute the positive impact of the contribution of AMI in CAR. The impact is also within the country where many churches are now involved in planting new churches, evangelising, organising crusades, and broadcasting programs in different prefectures where there are radio stations. In the implementation of its plans, AMI now has representations in Gbadolite (DRC), Sibut, Damara, Berberati and Carnot, which are all in CAR.

TRAINING/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

AMI provides discipleship training for two years and an intensive missionary training for one year and an internship also for one year to his students. AMI mentors those it trains. It does not force them out in the field but sends only those who have missionary vision. AMI does the follow-up after the students have been positioned and the work is done on the mission field by evaluating them during the missionary conference.

The subjects taught at AMI are provided by the Living World Mission which supervises all missionary agencies.

PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

AMI has now a website for a year. Actually, through its website, AMI is planning to exhibit all its teachings and missionary activities to the general public. Everything is now operational on www.Adonaïmission.com in both French and English. AMI is using the Jesus movie most often because it assists them in their evangelism work.

FUTURE

It is important to note that AMI has a short and middle-term strategic plan, but in its strategic planning, AMI assigned itself a vision for the African central sub-region which includes Angola, Rwanda and Burundi. For instance, AMI, in its community projects, wants to implement the following:

1. A water fountain in Saidou (Bangui)
2. A vocational school for 98 young people in Carnot, CAR
3. A community health centre in Gbadolite, DRC

REPORT PREPARATION INFORMATION

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Person Interviewed: Adolphe Sana (National Director)

Date of interview: Thursday, 11 July 2013

Sources: AMI brochure.

POST-CONFLICT INTERVIEW REPORT

8/28/15

During the conflict, AMI structures in several areas were destroyed or looted, and transportation and communication were greatly limited. Some regions were dangerous, and so ministry could not be continued there. The training centers at AMI's Bangui headquarters had been closed for a full year at the time of the interview. The conflict created a financial crisis for AMI and its missionaries, as partners did not send funds for a period. There were not funds to pay administrative staff, and some voluntary staff left the country. However, a grant was received that would support twenty missionaries and their families for three years. These missionaries are expected to continue their work in the mission field.

AMI had contact with individual Anti-balakas during the conflict, but the director says that AMI did not encounter any leaders with whom they might have had a constructive discussion about peace.

Going forward, AMI is focused on resuming operations like their training programs, and reconstruction. The director believes that the crisis has helped them learn what people, churches, and denominations they can best collaborate with. He says that the crisis also opened opportunities to develop missions stations in new areas.

Pastor Sana believes that focusing on scriptures and praying has helped him during this conflict. He says that he has seen that those who called God's name were helped, and protected from harm. The scriptures that were most meaningful to the director during the crisis were John 16:33, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." And 1 John 4: 4 "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the Spirit who lives in the world."

APPENDIX

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- For the salvation of the lost and sinners, the regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential.
- In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit who is dwelling in and empowering Christians to live a sanctified life and working for Jesus-Christ.
- In the spiritual unity of believers through our Lord Jesus-Christ.
- In the resurrection of those saved and lost for them to be saved for the resurrection to life or to be convicted.
- The Grace of God is the way of salvation for man and not good works.
- God ordains to His Church to worship Him in Spirit and truth, love and demonstrate faithful management and preach the Gospel of Christ in the entire world.