



48 ❖ An excellent teaching pastor

Frédéric Kindumbu was born in 1930 not far from the Mukedi mission in a region where there were many lakes. As a youth he loved to take his little pirogue out on the lakes to fish. His parents were not Christian, but from an early age his ambition was to worship God through religious songs. All his life this tall, slender, robust man would easily slip into the kind of traditional dancing practiced by villagers.

But he is best known as an excellent teacher. He did his primary studies at Mukedi and was baptized in 1945. He continued studying and received a teaching certificate from the pedagogical institute. This was in an era when many young people still thought education was a waste of time. He then taught in Feshi Territory.

He married Valestine Mbagu in 1950, and they had five children. One of his sons became a Mennonite pastor, and his only daughter married a professor.

In 1978 the Lord and his church district called him to study at the Kalonda Bible Institute, near Tshikapa. Finishing in 1982, he interned as a pastor for four years and was ordained in 1986 at Mukedi station.

By then his contemporaries had noticed that he was a dignified, responsible man who held his own. He had taught many young people of the area and the denomination. He instructed them in morality, good conduct, discipline, obedience, and good manners, as well

photo—Frédéric Kindumbu with his wife Valestine Mbagu

as how to read and write well. He always stressed the importance of speaking well “the language of Molière.” He said we must prepare the leaders of tomorrow who will be able to defend the interests of the denomination, and that we must demonstrate good comportment in our way of being, acting, and reacting.

During his life he was heaped with pedagogical honors. Besides that, thanks to his gallantry, competence, and intelligence, he knew how to manage even the most turbulent students. His qualifications as a teacher helped him work well within the denomination.

Rev. Frédéric Kindumbu sowed good seeds in the denomination. As a teaching pastor, he taught the good news of our Lord to everyone without discrimination, insisting on fear of God, devotion, love of neighbor, respect, obedience, discipline, and respect for the Ten Commandments. His contribution to the denomination was change in ways of living and modernization.

He traveled long distances on foot between Mukedi, Mujima, and other places to teach the good news. Throughout his life, he organized many biblical seminars. He was a role model—smiling, patient, a true Mennonite in the heart of the denomination.

He fell ill and, despite different interventions in various hospitals, passed away in 1997.

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