



43 ❖ A persistent preacher

Pastor Mutombo Ngalamulume's sermons were more concise than his name. The faithful nicknamed him Tshibila, which means rapid, because he could capture his audiences in a short time with his interesting messages. In the region where he was born, in East Kasai, the name Ngalamulume is often given to a boy born into a family where the firstborn are girls.

Teachers in mission schools had small classes, knew their pupils individually, and followed each one's evolution with interest. By the end of his primary studies at Lubondanayi around 1951, Mutombo showed a great interest in the word of God. He was assigned as a teacher-evangelist in 1952 in Tshibawu. However, he did not hide his admiration for pastors and his own inclinations in that direction.

He felt so called by the Lord that he decided to take up the pastoral path after his marriage with Kapinga Tshikenge. He enrolled in the Kalonda Bible Institute in 1959. But things were not easy for him, because with the accession of the country to independence, especially in Kasai, tribal war broke out between Baluba and Lulua as well as between Pende and Chokwe. In the turmoil the Bible institute was transferred to Kandala in Bandundu. But here too, institutions were destabilized by the post-independence conflict known as the Mulelist or Jeunesse rebellion.

Mutombo was attached to his vocation and did not despair. He showed exceptional patience and finished his biblical studies in 1967.

photo—Mutombo Ngalamulume

This patience paid off in 1969 when he was ordained pastor at Kalomba Kabuadi.

For many long years Pastor Mutombo and his wife placed themselves totally at the disposition of the community and were willing to go wherever the needs were felt. That was how they went to work in one community after another— Lungudi, Kalonda, Biantondi, Kasai Abattoir.

Rev. Mutombo gave great importance to work. He believed that the creator placed humans in the garden to cultivate its soil and to be caretakers. For him daily manual work was not a form of slavery but rather a responsibility entrusted by God himself, which gives meaning to human life.

This servant of God left behind concrete actions. He made a great contribution to the building of churches in Biantondi and Kasai Abattoir. He died at the age of sixty-four years.

Vincent Ndandula