

## **Open letter to the Regional Director of Every Home for Christ Anglo Africa**

Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Dear Brother Hennie,

Thank you so much for your trust in my conduct during the transitional period experienced within EHC Burundi for about 6 months, from October 2008 to March 2009 with unclear instructions in my quality of the Interim National Director, and further before from May to October last year as a consultant to the former National Director. Even though the momentum of this transition can actually be mapped up as a “catastrophic period” with a range of cumulative crises, I believe that the climate will positively change, as the dark clouds are being swept up through a long and tough process.

As you know, I have been called to serve and help revitalize the organization. It is now obvious and clear that the aim of this approach – from the former National Director – was to sacrifice my moral and physical personality in order that I can be utilized as a cover-up tool for diverse malpractices and hidden agendas. There is no more doubt in this allegation, on the light of all the machinations made up, even with evil dreams to convert some unimaginable lies into “truths”. These circumstances occurred and the key actor or responsible at the origin of this situation has many times tried to “force the nature” in an astonishing and unexpected manner, by putting stumbling blocs before me and other people involved in the process – the contrary of what he would have done to foster my work effectiveness and efficiency.

I praise the Lord because we did overcome huge obstacles despite human beings’ facts and realities in terms of stress management and tolerance. Many facts noticed within EHC Burundi were/are subjects of controversy compared to the mission that I thought I was assigned for; when I accepted the call to serve first of all as a consultant, with conviction that it was all about God’s work, secondly as the Interim National Director. Moreover, certain aspects of these dichotomies were merely attacks against my personal dignity, integrity and rights as a human being. Those attacks have also and sensibly affected my whole family with collateral consequences in my relationship.

Yes, the path toward peace and social change is not paved. It is spiny and full of stumbling blocs. But since the engagement in peace building and seek for social change is a noble mission, actors need to look at signs which show up far away from the horizon, take them into consideration in proceeding with their initiatives. It may not be wise for them to be complaining and quarrelling only or waiting for peace and social change in a “neutral position”, they must move forward in search for them. In several circumstances peace and social change may be stuck somewhere – “on a roundabout” for instance. Actors of positive change or adepts of conflict transformation must know that obstacles to integral stability can result from the fragility or congestion status of peace and social change in prospect. To release them, interveners should first of all untie them – sometimes using sharp tools – and reorient them with regards to the expected outcome and humanity safeguard.

Glory to God, the process undertaken jointly by EHC AA regional office and the EHC Burundi interim structure has brought up unquestionable fruits - such as the appointment of a new National Director in mid March 2009. This appointment is a relevant starting point

to re-launch the ministry in its five field activities or sectors of intervention. This achievement is God's victory upon human beings' ego and blindness resulted from evil spirits. With praise to the Lord, it really deserves to be celebrated. Nevertheless, special prayers should be asked for – from both the regional office and other EHC branches – because, as everyone knows, megalomania and tyranny are always closer to any exercise of power and ready to take control at all convenient opportunities.

As for me, being a Researcher & Practitioner in Education, Human Rights and Conflict transformation may not necessarily make people understand or accept my attitude and behaviour and work strategies. I am not a perfect person at all, but working in these qualities (Educator, HR Advocate and Peace Builder) for more than a whole decade has “tailored another kind of culture on my measurement” that imposes some demarcation lines between my human/African/Congolese/Bembe... feelings and my conscience in relation with my acts and involvements. Of course, this reality of my professional experience and overall background has potential and permanent risks. It also triggers internal or intra personal confrontations between the three social roles I play; thereafter it creates/maintains a continuous state of stress. The latest has also its positive and added values. It is a stimulating asset in hardworking situations of conflicts and post-conflict environments, but it must better follow a normal scale and keep reasonable limits to be effectively controlled and managed.

As complement to what my life and profession have enforced into my personality – as a new culture, other than what seems to be falsely taken as a common culture influencing individuals' and groups' behaviours throughout cities – I often adopt attitudes regardless affective, empathic and fanatic realities in view of some local traditions and social constraints. I am also “bound” to a discipline of publishing periodic papers, studies & surveys and reports & testimonies at least each three months. These tasks are fulfilled alongside my three social roles and specialities. From these ones, I can not pretend – and this is not my intention – to be a neutral person. I do have the capability of acting with impartiality in many circumstances, but being neutral (for me) means “having no position” and “undertaking no action” before a problem.

Therefore, It is essential to me, as I think and believe, to behave in accordance with what I teach, in similarity with what I publish and in conformity with what I defend in terms of values. This is why I thank God and all the people I have interacted with in the course of my working with EHC Burundi. I have gathered interesting and important data and gained further understanding on challenges which face evangelical missions and gaps preventing real changes to have place within churches, ministries and society. My understanding does include Christian leadership patterns, some religious visionary and organisational concepts, managerial and relational sources of dissensions, all these being intertwined in a certain measure with the power of manipulation.

Even though this further understanding has come from a tough experience regarding all kinds of pressure put on me from different sides, I do acknowledge that it has enriched my scope of strategies which need to be innovated, fostered, re-adjusted or taken into consideration for specific crises, in prospect of conflict transformation and insight peace and human rights education.

Beside the narration above, I would like to express my gratitude concerning your friendly will and proposal to the new structure of EHC Burundi so that I can pursue my work alongside the new board, as the person in charge of the Administration, with a formal appointment and monthly payments. This is a positive sign of encouragement to me and

other people. It proves that you have valued my modest contribution under the banner of EHC Burundi during the past months of crisis. God bless you for this acknowledgement, more specifically for your prompt reaction to the appeal of rescuing EHC AA branch in Burundi.

Unfortunately and for personal reasons I regret. My feeling is that my mission would end on consultancy and interim works which have contributed in bringing EHC Burundi on track again, rather than building up a career in the ministry. Afterward, I would keep on interacting with the organisation's board members in similar inter denominational activities or in matters pertaining to my specialities, when they need my intervention. In addition, I have no invulnerable nerves to persistent humiliations. Because I know that one of the dangerous germinal cells of violent conflicts is "humiliation", I would prefer to abstain from getting involved in EHC Burundi matters again. Agreeing that the intentions and power of manipulation are often used irrespectively of the law, one may scare falling into the trap once more. Someone had said this in French:

- "Les mêmes causes produisent les mêmes effets".

However, it will be my pleasure to see any EHC mission deployed in DR Congo (my country of origin), where I have also been running some non-profit projects. From there, EHC International would rely on me as a resource or contact person if this is needed.

Indeed, every good minded person will be happy with today's development for EHC Burundi. Nobody has the power to make lies prevail on truth or make them sustain for ever. Not understanding this is like fighting against nature and the Creator, putting oneself straight on the way to perdition. Truth will remain triumphal on lies. Even though the fight lasts for long, truth ends up by reversing all obstacles and enlightening everything in open air.

To end my long letter, like a combatant back from a battle would yell out under the flag, I would like to say this in French: "MISSION ACCOMPLIE !" So, I wish abundant blessings to everyone who had spent her/his time, energy and other resources to alleviate the crisis caused by the EHC Burundi mess. I am also praying so that the Holy Spirit can assist the broken hearts and protect and restore families torn by this crisis.

Amen!

Dieudonne Amisi Mutambala