

Francophone Africa Conversation on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century

**Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Grand Hotel
August 14, 2009**

The Francophone Africa Conversation on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century was held at the Grand Hotel in Kinshasa, DRC on Friday, August 14, 2009. This conference was attended by 36 leaders from two Francophone African countries. The purpose of this meeting was to ascertain what the Holy Spirit is doing in Francophone Africa, discover and discuss issues facing the Spirit-empowered church in that region, discover contemporary methods and vocabulary needed for engaging new generations in Spirit-empowered living, and form an alliance with Francophone leaders in order to facilitate a Spirit-empowered movement into a united river of blessing that will flood the earth. These goals were achieved, under the leadership of Pastor Billy Wilson, as the group discussed some pivotal questions to an understanding of the 21st century move of the Holy Spirit in Francophone Africa. The findings from the questions are noted below:

Q1: What are you seeing and hearing that indicates the direction of the Holy Spirit's work and how He is moving today? What is God doing now?

The group noted:

- More people are speaking in tongues
- There is a wave of healing and prophecy
- God is unifying the church
- God is flying over the force of customs and darkness
- God is chasing away bad spirits
- More people are accepting God
- More people are accepting the power of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural
- Bad trends in the church are going away
- Leaders are more conscious of what is to be done
- Leadership is being requalified
- God is bringing unity among the Francophone Christians
- There is more cooperative work among the youth
- Previous idol worshippers are now hungry for God. They understand that God is the solution to their problems
- Political leaders are turning to God and are looking for the face of God



Q2: What is producing fruit and what is no longer producing fruit in the Spirit-filled movement? What must stop, start, and continue?

Factors that are producing fruit include:

- Unprejudiced acceptance of each other in the Church
- Evangelism
- The Word of God preached under the anointing
- Prayer chains
- Holy Spirit-led prophecies
- Social action
- Christian conferences

Factors that are no longer producing fruit include:

- Disunity in the church
- Lack of integrity among church leaders
- Distrust among church leaders
- Neglecting to teach on and speak of the Holy Spirit
- Lack of respect for each other and for our leaders
- Prophecies that do not bear fruit
- Flattery
- Crusades
- Door to door evangelism because people have decided to reject it

Q3: What unique challenges and opportunities are now facing Spirit-empowered Christianity in Francophone Africa? What should we expect in the future?

Challenges that are facing Spirit-empowered Christianity in Francophone Africa include:

- Disorder in the church
- Growth and development of non-Christian religions
- Poverty
- Limited activities for the youth
- Most of the population lives in rural areas and many of them are bound to secular customs and traditions
- Lack of teaching on the work and person of the Holy Spirit
- The Gospel is not taking its true place in the church
- Lack of role-model leadership
- Desires of the flesh are taking more precedence than the Holy Spirit among our leaders
- Lack of Bible translations in the language of the locals
- Politics is taught more than the Word of God
- Lack of logistics to carryout evangelism



- The church does not have its own welfare
- The church is dependent on government and private people that are not Christians
- There is too much discrimination against female ministers
- Lack of love, peace, and transparency
- Lack of sincere partnership. Everybody wants to work on his own
- Lack of true miracles
- There are only a few Pentecostal schools
- Confusion between the character and the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Pentecostal churches are not investing in community development activities
- Spiritual pride
- Witch doctors
- Growth of Islam. Arab countries are supporting Muslims in Francophone Africa. They are building schools, attracting the youth, and giving them scholarships to study outside
- The international Pentecostal churches are not supporting the church in Africa
- Ancestral worship
- Lack of true charismatic leaders in our community
- Maintaining spiritual revival
- Make the fruit of the Holy Spirit alive in the lives of Spirit-filled Christians
- Unity and solidarity in the Christian Church
- Respect for the foundation of the apostles
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to take His place as director of the church
- Helping the Francophone church in the social field
- Translation of the Bible into unknown languages

The opportunities that are facing the Spirit-empowered Christianity in Francophone Africa include:

- The world is looking for role models in leadership. If leaders step up to the plate and be effective leaders they could have a much greater impact on the world
- Cutting edge technological advancement, such as electronic Bibles, can be used to reach a greater population of people
- In the past, we had to wait for external missionaries, but now we are equipped to travel to and evangelize our people
- Seeing people in poverty can be an open door for us to demonstrate and present the Gospel
- Unity between genders
- Current involvement of politicians in evangelism
- There are Holy Spirit-filled Christians in the daily management of the public sector
- There is freedom to exchange our ideas
- Increase of signs, wonders, and miracles
- Freedom to evangelize in the remote parts of our country



Q4: What trends are now affecting the next generation as it relates to their being empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Trends that are affecting the next generation include:

- Listening to both secular and Christian music
- Engaging in premarital sexual relationship
- High percentage of unemployment
- Lack of and love of money
- Alcohol addiction and drug abuse
- Neglected by their parents
- Lack of role model leadership to influence the youth
- Bad prophecies that destroy families
- Youth mistreat and disobey parents
- Fashion
- Internet
- Mistakes of the elders
- Youth in universities are sometime negatively influenced by their professors
- Youth mostly follow fake servants of God instead of the good ones
- Customs and traditions in the church are discouraging the youth from the Holy Spirit
- Youth like what is sensational
- Youth are influenced by all the success they see around them.
- The media is transmitting non-Christian values and teachings to the youth

Q5: What do you see as the future of the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement in Africa?

- It will transform Africa, but good mentoring is needed
- There will be an awakening of the charismatic movement
- The movement will continue to move forward and we are waiting a latter rain
- An international revival will take place, and it will start in Africa
- The Holy Spirit is actually moving strongly in the Pentecostal church and trying to separate the elite from the fake. The elite will be more empowered to reach people
- The devil is working here strongly
- The Holy Spirit will flood Africa and take control
- Muslims will grow stronger
- Pentecostal movement is going downward; it is going to weaken
- The heretics are in the open now and are not afraid
- There will be a powerful explosion of the works of the Holy Spirit in Africa



Q7 & Q8: What action steps can be taken which new generations will perceive as empowering them for greater service? What steps can we take that will help this generation experience the fullness of the Spirit? What about speaking in tongues? How can we help them connect spiritual power with practical impact in the 21st Century?

- People should be trained spiritually and intellectually
- Youth need mentors
- Great intercession for the youth
- Regular teaching on the Holy Spirit
- They should be taught how to live a life of sacrifice
- Do things that will attract youth to the church
- Change should be promoted in the mentality of the youth
- Encourage them to have faith in God
- They should be encouraged to express themselves
- Give them responsibility
- Train them to respect their elders
- Every church should have a youth service
- Elders should encourage them to study, read, pray, and practice the Word of God
- Good Bible schools should be established
- Televised broadcast on Holy Spirit and tongues that youth can learn from
- The Word of God should be taught to our children
- The fear of God should be taught

Q9: What is the number one thing that we can do in our local churches to help the next generation experience the power of the Holy Spirit and serve in the movement?

- Discover their talent and use it

The Francophone Africa conversation revealed that the church in Francophone Africa is experiencing a great move of the Spirit of God, and their political leaders are coming to faith in Christ. However, there are a few challenges that are hindering the spiritual growth of the church. These include: the leaders lack sound theological training so they are not able to effectively teach their congregants the Word of God; distrust among church leaders; most of the population, especially the youth, are uneducated; there is a high rate of poverty; Islam is becoming more attractive to the youth because of the educational and financial opportunities they are offering them; the church is being infiltrated by secular customs and traditions; there are limited activities for the youth; and the youth lack good role models who can demonstrate for them what it means to live lives that are honorable before God.

