

## Rev. Ignace Wantete's successful French language ministry in Colorado

D. Michael Hentrich  
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Since the inception of the French ministry in 2013, members have been actively involved in the activities of the ministry, including witnessing. They contact different people and Rev. Ignace Wantete takes care of teaching the Divine Principle in French. If a member witnesses to someone in a different city or state, Rev. Wantete teaches the person over the phone. He is currently teaching, via telephone, a brother living in Missouri who will receive the blessing on Foundation Day in 2017. On November 8, 2014, the French ministry held a conference at the Ramada Hotel based on the Divine Principle. The turnout and teachings were impressive as seen in the participants' testimonies (below). On Foundation Day in 2015, two couples whom Rev. Wantete had witnessed to received the blessing at the Colorado Family Church, which brought joy to the faces and hearts of each member. Later in the same year, we organized a workshop in Estes Park in the Colorado mountains, where participants had time to concentrate on God and on polishing their knowledge of the Divine Principle.

Rev. Wantete is the center of the new French-language Unification Church community in Denver Colorado. He joined our church in the Republic of the Congo (also known as Congo Brazzaville) in 1990. He was the first member in the providence from Congo Brazzaville to set foot in True Parents' homeland, Korea, in 1991. He received the blessing in 1992 and moved to Senegal, where he later became the president of the Unification Church. He is currently an assistant pastor in Denver, in charge of the French-language ministry.

### **A valuable godly resource**

I was working as vice-regional leader under Rev. Park from 2003 to 2006 and thereafter as the state leader of Colorado when Mr. Wantete became increasingly active in the Denver Church community. His spirit and heart for God and True Parents were truly refreshing and inspiring. Moreover, since he was a French-speaking brother and an experienced Divine Principle lecturer, he brought those special gifts and talents to the community. I asked him how many French-speaking churches were in the Denver metropolitan area, and he informed me that there were very few. I encouraged him to start a French-speaking ministry to reach out to the many French-speaking people in the area. Then the direction came from headquarters to divide our local church congregations into smaller groups that might grow more than they would by continuing to identify themselves as one large group. Thus, I asked Mr. Wantete to create a separate French UC community there, utilizing the same church facilities, as the Mormon community does, effectively creating a French-speaking Unification Church. Based on his past mission leadership and experience, I designated him as a "reverend" and gave him all the help I could. We made French yard signs and bulletins and he secured French Holy Song books. Since about a dozen local members already spoke French, a seed community was formed and they were off and running. Now, they hold workshops, and weekly worship has been ongoing for about three years.

Earlier this year, Rev. Wantete realized that there was a need for a new witnessing strategy, because we have yet to witness to so many French-speaking people. He came up with a yearly plan that will augment the group of people being exposed to the truth. The French ministry will hold four conferences this year.

These conferences will have catchy topics with broad appeal. The first conference took place on March 5, under the topic, “God’s Ideal for World Peace.” The ministry’s goal is to develop a good relationship with other Christian church members and invite them to events, with the ultimate goal of teaching them the truth and having them participate in Blessing Ceremonies.

As in the beginning of any other ministry, challenges are inevitable. The French-speaking members often converse with Christians who truly believe that their doctrines convey the ultimate truth. The second challenge is the lack of material. They need French Divine Principle books, more Holy Song books and more French reading material that conveys True Parents’ message.

The spiritual and financial support of the local church is the basis for everything the French ministry has been able to do. Pastors Michael and Adonia Hentrich encourage and provide the resources necessary to facilitate the work of the French-language outreach. The love and support among all members are priceless. English-speaking members also participate in the French events to support the ministry.

I continue to believe in Rev. Wantete and his potential to lead and grow a substantial UC community for French-speaking people throughout the Denver metropolitan area. There are many prepared people out there, waiting for True Parents. Rev. Wantete and all the powerful and inspired French-speaking members of the Denver church are the chosen people to find them and invite them. True Parents are depending upon them and expecting greater things to come. Rev. Wantete hopes to inspire French-speaking members around the country to do the same in their respective states. He is also looking forward to working with others who want to establish a French ministry in other states so they can help each other to maximize their potential.



### **Nancy Emerson**

I had not been in a church in eighteen years when I met Rev. Ignace Wantete in January 2015. My story is too long to tell here, but I absolutely know God put him in my life to teach me the Bible and Divine Principle. God waited until I was ready; believe me, eighteen years is a very long time. Rev. Wantete spent so much time patiently teaching me in a way that I would understand. There were a few trying times throughout this process. Once I even quit, but he did not give up. He came and brought me back. I did find the truth and the answers to all my questions about the Bible. God, True Parents and Divine Principle are finally in my life. On April 10, 2016, I formally became a member of the Colorado Family Church. I am now a pioneer on my journey and looking forward to my adventures as I seek to spread the word across this nation and throughout the world.

I am an American and do not speak French, but I do attend both the regular and the French services, where someone always interprets for me. On March 5, Rev. Wantete held a Divine Principle seminar for French speaking guests titled, “God’s Ideal for World Peace.” He held it at the Colorado Family Church in Denver. If you ever have a chance to attend one of his seminars, I highly recommend it. He explains in detail about Adam and Eve and the Fall. He talks about the three great blessings, the four-position foundation and about how God has striven to save humankind throughout history. He explains the growth period we all have to go through in order to reach perfection and how this all shows the scientific aspect of the Bible. One woman even commented that she did not realize the Bible had a scientific side. She was so excited. In addition, he drew a time-line and showed how each age is parallel to all the others right

down to where we are on that time-line today. The Bible contains many parables and symbols. Divine Principle explains it all and Rev. Wantete goes into great depth and detail in his teaching of it. The people in this church as well as Heavenly Father and True Parents love him very much. He lives by Divine Principle.



### **Catherine Ichinohe**

I have been a member of the French ministry in Denver from the very beginning. I would not miss a Sunday service for anything. The sermons given by Rev. Wantete are deeply inspiring, deeply rooted in the Bible and in the Divine Principle. The unique fact about this ministry is that the participants are from diverse French speaking countries—France and several African countries. Through True Parents’ teaching shared in French by Rev. Wantete, we can truly feel that we are one family under God.

### **Emmanuel Shima**

I was born and raised in a Catholic family. When I met Rev. Wantete, I noticed that he was different in some ways—the way he carries himself, his way of talking and how he gets along with people so easily. These attributes earned him much respect from me and other people who conversed with him. I am a very skeptical person, but when Rev. Wantete started talking to me about the Divine Principle, I found it hard to argue. He spoke with so much passion and seriousness. His confidence and eloquence stimulated in me the willingness to listen to him more. He told me things in the Bible that shocked me because some of them are things that I held so dear but happened to be wrong. For instance, I believed that the predestination of God is absolute, when he destined something for you it would come to pass whether you had fulfilled your responsibility or not; but this was wrong. It took me a while to come to terms with the teachings. After studying the Divine Principle, I embraced the truth and I accepted True Parents. I received the blessing on Foundation Day in 2015.

### **Laurette Heppell**

I am so eager every Sunday to come to the French service, which I have attended ever since it began. I am so inspired to receive the word of God in my language, but most of all, I have been so inspired to hear my brother, Ignace Wantete, who gives sermons with a passionate heart and excitement. I often laugh or cry.... He has opened my eyes to Bible stories. He explains each story in light of the Principle and God’s providence. Brother Wantete is very charismatic, entertaining and fun to listen to. Mainly, he reminds us always to be faithful and to develop our prayer lives. We pray in unison every Sunday. It is powerful. Thank you, brother Wantete.

### **Justine Daboni**

I moved from Togo to Colorado sixteen years ago. My husband and I received the blessing in 1995. Unfortunately, he passed into the spirit world four years later. The French ministry has been such a blessing to my family. Rev Wantete takes time to teach us more about the Divine Principle. Having the teachings in French helps us to better understand them, as French is our first language. The commitment that comes from each of us is something I like. Even though we are a small number of people, I believe that the Divine Principle is a precious jewel that will attract others. We just need to expose people to it.