

Dear friend,

I welcome you on the page of the Christian Initiative to fight against Alcoholism in Chad!

I am Mardochee Nadoumngar, Pastor Assistant to the Christian Assembly "La Bonne Nouvelle" here in Ndjamena in Chad (Central Africa). I am married to Ruth Doumdjé. we have 5 children including 4 boys and a daughter with two grandchildren. I served for several years as Director of the Evangelical Theological School Shalom (ESTES), today FATES; And since October 2014, I work with some Theological Institutions in Francophone Africa on behalf of Overseas Council, a Christian organization based in the United States.

It seemed urgent to me to have this site created for all and especially to the attention of my Chadian and Chadian compatriots to draw our attention on the danger of alcoholism which weakens a large part of our population and which can lead our country to ruin if we do not pay attention.

This motivation follows my PhD thesis in theology on Mobilizing the Chadian Church to Understanding and Treating Alcoholism (2012). In fact, lately I am amazed and even shocked - and I think that it's the position of many. Yes, I am shocked at the pace with which Chadians consume alcohol. Men and women, old men and young men. You only have to go out in our streets in the afternoon and see how the bars and the cabarets are invaded by a good part of the population who take hours and hours for drinking.

It is true that everyone has their reasons for drinking, but the consequences of an excessive consumption of alcohol have damaging effects. The person who continues to take alcohol becomes an alcoholic; That is, alcohol dominates and controls him. Alcohol takes away much of his wages, his harvest and his belongings. He becomes addicted to alcohol; meaning that without alcohol he feels bad; with alcohol he regains its balance. He must drink alcohol before taking any action. The more he drinks, the more he destroys himself physically and psychologically. Alcohol leads him gradually to death if he does not recover.

The consequences of alcoholism also affect the alcoholic's family. There is violence on the members of the family; and above all the needs related to food, clothing, children's schooling, medical care, etc. are not satisfied because all resources are destroyed by alcohol.

The society, whether it likes it or not, suffers the consequences of alcoholism: violence, work accidents, traffic accidents, robbery, and rape of women and girls with their corollary of sexually transmitted diseases.

The Bible says that the one who loves alcohol gets poorer and ends up wearing rags (Proverbs 23:21). But more than that, the Bible states that drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:10). Alcoholism is therefore a sin that closes the gates of heaven to the one who practices it.

Often the alcoholic is hated and rejected by his family and society. He is considered to be the one who refuses to change his behavior. He is told not to drink but he continues to drink. Eventually people get tired of him and leave him to his sad fate. And bearing the weight of his guilt, he continues to drink alcohol to conceal his problems. Apparently, it is believed that for such a person there is no hope.

But we say there is hope. Such a person can be transformed by a power that is higher than that of alcohol. This is where we find it necessary to mobilize the Chadian Church to understand and treat alcoholism. It is about training pastors and church leaders to understand why people drink, what positive attitudes to adopt when we are faced with an alcoholic so that we can dispose of him to listen to us. Thus it can be led gradually to Jesus Christ.

My approach is Christian and centered on Jesus Christ, the Son of God who has the power to liberate man and woman, the old as well as the young from the slavery of alcohol. For Jesus Himself said, "If then the Son sets you free, you will be truly free" (John 8:36).

I believe that "unity is strength" and I call unto men, women and young people of good will to give us the hand of association in this struggle against alcoholism. I also believe that by God's grace our combined efforts will have a positive impact on our fellow Chadians and why not on other people beyond our geographical borders!

May God help us and let only his name be glorified!

Pastor Mardochée NADOUMNGAR
National Coordinator of ICLAT