



*Teresa David-Panda*

## ***Women's rights to be in a position of leadership***

NetACT (Network for African Congregational Theology), assists its theological training institute members in preparing leaders for missional congregations, and is administered from the Stellenbosch University.

Teresa David-Panda (29) from Huambo Angola, currently completing her Master of Theology (MTh) at Stellenbosch University, is one of the students benefiting from this network.

“I am the fifth-born among nine siblings. My father has been an Evangelical Pentecostal pastor for 42 years. Because pastors in Angola put ministry first, congregants second and family last, I never aspired to be a pastor,” says Teresa.

“I remember the frustration of my father never playing with us, and making time only to discuss our academic results. I don't want my children to experience that, yet God has called me for ministry and given me a husband who is also a pastor!

“Since childhood I desired to serve God in the church's department of education, so I completed a BA in theology from 2010 - 2014 at ISTEEL (Evangelical Institute of Theology in Lubango, Angola). I want to equip church leaders and members to understand and interpret scripture comprehensively in order to apply it.

“In 2015 I focused on mastering English and in 2016 completed my Postgraduate Diploma in Theology focussing on the Old Testament.

“In 2017 I started my Master of the New Testament with the thesis topic: *Women, Teaching and Leadership in 1 Timothy 2:11-15: A rhetorical-critical study, with reference to Angola.*

“In Angola women are only allowed to take leadership among themselves regardless of their skill or experience,” explains Teresa. “Even though some are afforded the opportunity to learn and teach, most evangelical churches still silence, subjugate, and restrict women.

“My study aims to expose the hermeneutical motives to restrict women in church leadership roles using 1 Tim 2. I will also argue the significance of women's right to hold leadership roles and contribute to the success of the Body of Christ in Angola. I am working towards December graduation so that I may start my doctorate programme thereafter.”

### ***Contact***

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