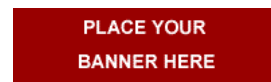




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4 family members of Minna-based pastor, 4 others die in auto crash

Written by Adelowo Oladipo - Minna | Monday, 19 August 2013 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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TRAGEDY struck at the weekend in Niger State, as no fewer than eight passengers, among whom a pastor's wife, Mrs Hellen Samuel and her three children, died in an auto crash at Katagbegi village when a bus boarded by them and owned by the Niger State Transport Authority (NSTA) ran into an articulated vehicle on the Bida-Minna road.

The family of Pastor Abraham Samuel of the Potter Porch Church, Minna and the other passengers of the bus were said to be travelling from Lagos to Minna when the crash occurred at about 8.00 p.m. on Saturday.

The 18-seater passenger bus, according to eyewitnesses, was said to have caught fire few moments after the accident, thereby making rescue efforts difficult.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that only one passenger was rescued with serious burns.

Special Adviser to the Niger State Government on Emergency and Disaster Management, Mohammed Shaba, confirmed the incident, adding that eight bodies had been recovered from the scene of the auto crash, even though the bus was believed to have carried 18 passengers from its Iddo, Lagos terminus.

Saba said that the remains of the deceased had been deposited at the mortuary section of Minna General Hospital.

The passengers, according to him, were said to have been burnt in the vehicle because the people that rushed to the scene for the rescue efforts lacked the capacity to curtail the fire.

Our correspondent who visited the church on Sunday met with the pastor preaching on the pulpit during a service after which he announced the demise of his wife and three children.

The members of the congregation screamed after hearing the sad news and the pastor remained calm with elders of the church seated around him.

According to Pastor Samuel, "my wife and the kids are resting."

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