

REPORT OF THE GIRL'S/YOUNG SISTER'S CAMP IN GOMA (August 17–21, 2016)

Rebecca came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother; and she had her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the maiden was very fair in countenance; a virgin, and no man had known her. And she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up...And she said, Drink, my lord! And she hastened and let down her pitcher on her hand, and gave him to drink...she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have drunk enough (Genesis 24:15–19).

A girl's camp took place at the Bible Center in Goma from the August 17–21, 2016. The theme developed was based on "The Life of Rebecca." This camp brought together girls from the area of Goma, especially the city of Goma and the center of Kitshanga and Minova.

I. Outline of the Teaching

1. Birth of Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel who was the brother of Abraham (Genesis 22:23).
2. Rebecca, in the thoughts of God as a spouse for Isaac (Abraham, a picture of God the Father; Isaac, a picture of God the Son, the Lord Jesus; and the servant of Abraham as a picture of the Holy Spirit; Genesis 24:1–14).
 - i. The name of Abraham's servant is not mentioned here (picture of the Holy Spirit who doesn't speak for Himself but who glorifies the Christ (see verse 2).
 - ii. The name of the servant is Eliezer, revealed in Genesis 15:2 by Abraham.
 - iii. The role the servant has in searching for a bride for his lord shows the role of the Holy Spirit in engaging believers.
3. Rebecca, the spouse for Isaac, had to come from the family of Abraham (Genesis 24:4, compare with 22:23). The equivalent today is from the family of God's children.
4. Rebecca, the spouse for Isaac according to the thought of God. We find her near to the well, the Word of God (Genesis 24:12–14)
5. Answer to the prayer of Abraham's servant (Genesis 24:15–21)
6. Answer of Rebecca about her family (today a spiritual family). That is, the testimony of the young girl that she belonged to the family of God (today declaring your faith), confirming the prayer of the servant (Genesis 24:22–24).
7. Rebecca, an example of a courageous and welcoming woman (Genesis 24:25, 28).
8. The satisfaction of the servant (the Holy Spirit) and thankfulness for the answer to his prayers (Genesis 24:26–27).



9. Steps for a legal marriage after being approved by God as fiancées (Genesis 24:28–66):

- i. Inform parents
- ii. The families meet each other
- iii. Testimony of the fiancées before the parents
- iv. The dowry and other things
- v. Marriage in families (as a custom)
- vi. Decision of the spouses to a life together
- vii. Wedding before a Civil Registrar, blessing of the parents and members of the spiritual family, etc.

10. Rebecca, a spouse for Isaac (Genesis 24:67)

11. Other aspects of Rebecca's life: Genesis 25:19–26; 27:6–17, 42; Romans 9:10



The story of Rebecca's engagement in Genesis 24 is a good example for the girls who would like to be married. The choice of a spouse is not a gamble, as some young people say, but more a process made in dependence on God and under the direction of the Holy Spirit (represented in this story by Abraham's servant). He was sent on behalf of his lord Isaac, completely devoted himself to the leading of God, and asks for signs to know who should be the future spouse of his master Isaac.

God answered the prayer of the servant, and this servant worshiped and thanked God for that answer before beginning the step of legalizing the

marriage. All the steps, from the thought of the father to find a spouse for his son to when the bride meets her husband, are made in dependency on God and under His direction.

Rebecca provides a good example to follow for the girls who want to get married in her faith, in her behavior, and in her characteristics of courage, work, respect for her body, welcoming, hospitable, decision maker, etc.

II. Details of the Camp

For the second session of this camp, the age of the girls was from 15 to 25 years old due to the theme. As in the first camp, the teaching was in Swahili but the girls also used the French hymnbook from which some hymns were chosen for both the girl's and the boy's camps.

III. Competition: Bible Cards

There are no athletic facilities or other equipment for the girls in Goma yet, so we played the game with Bible cards like we did for the boy's camp. The first day was set aside to learn this game and the second day we held a competition. On the third day, we announced the results and gave rewards to the winners.

Rewards were given:

- A Darby Bible for the first three girls
- A book, *The Choice of a Spouse*, for a girl who already had received a Bible
- 65 booklets of *The Treasures God Offers To You* and 65 *The Lord is*



Near calendars for everybody.

IV. Participation

The number of girls coming was not supposed to exceed 60 because of the room and also because of the accommodations. Among the girls, 20 were supposed to come from Kitshanga and Minova (they stay in the building of the CEDIBIB GOMA Bible Center). But we were surprised to see the number increased despite the effect on the budget due to catering and transportation in the city.

The numbers there for teaching:

- First day: 69 girls
- Second day: 75 girls
- Third day: 85 girls

V. General Observations and Future Sessions

During the meeting to evaluate the boy's and girl's camps that have taken place, the following suggestions were made to improve future camps:

- We will need two big garbage pails during the camps, one for upstairs and one for downstairs.
- We will need a second tank for better maintenance of hygiene. One would supply the restroom and the other for washing hands and for the kitchen.
- Before the camp, it will be necessary to clarify various roles so there is no overlapping or confusion related to respective contributions or passivity during the camp.
- Young people asked for rotation of the young people's camp in the three centers of the Goma area; we should take this into account next year. The 10 youngest guests for each center will have to be accompanied by a supervisor, and the budget will take into account these 10 people per center.
- We observed during the camps that most of the young people don't have a Bible and those who do have one don't know how to find the verses indicated. It is a necessity to begin to initiate them to the reading of the Bible in the centers where they live. To enable these young people to participate to the studies we need to make a certain amount of Bibles available during the camp. These will have to be given back in good condition at the end of the camps.
- There have already been five camps for young people, three for boys and two for girls, without having any specific or general conference. So in December 2016 we plan to organize a camp for girls to keep things in equilibrium. We would also like to think about other areas of the assembly for 2016, such as general conferences for the Goma area, conferences about couples, teaching about the local assembly (servants), the tabernacle, etc. Teaching the young people (even the Sunday school) is the future of the assembly. We can begin to organize successive camps and other conferences so that everyone can be regularly helped. In this way, the door is open to different servants called here or there to take care of specific categories of brothers or sisters through teaching, according to the need of the souls and the ability of the teacher. We observed that teaching has a big spiritual impact when given by a visitor from abroad, for instance in youth camps, whose teaching should be attended to by local brothers and sisters.
- We will have to add in the young people's programs instruction about health and hygiene, job search, etc. so that their conduct can be seen by everybody, being based on the teaching of the Word of God (1 Timothy 4:15–16).
- We will need light in the bathroom so that the people who stay in the building of the CEDIBIB (Bible Center) can be safe during the night.



- We will need laundry equipment to enable young people to wash and dry their clothes and sheets at the end of the camp.
- We continue to pray that the Lord will help us to find appropriate buildings to supervise the youth in a spiritual and physical way (1 Timothy 4:8).

VI. Camp Organization

The organization and the running of the girl's camp has been possible with the help of the following sisters:

Espérance Bashizi (Goma)
Jeanine Bushashire (Goma)
Espérance Mwamini (Goma)
Saburi Lukoo (Goma)
Katungu Florine (Goma)
Régine Ndamwenge (Goma)
Kavira Musavuli (Goma)
Jasmine Neema (Goma)
Maria Shemuono (Minova)
Tuliza Batachoka (Kitshanga)

