

## REPORT ON THE BOYS'/YOUNG BROTHERS' CAMP IN GOMA (August 10–14, 2016)

“And he did what was right in the sight of Jehovah, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand nor to the left.”

From August 11 to 13, a camp for boys/young believers was held at the Broadcast Center of the Bible in Goma. The topic was “The Life of Josiah, a Young Example.” The participants arrived on the 10<sup>th</sup> and left on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> after the worship and ministry meetings.

### I. TEACHING PLAN

This theme was developed over the following nine points:

1. Prophecy regarding Josiah (1 Ki. 13:2; 2 Ki. 23:16)
2. Integrity of Josiah, who became king of Judah (2 Ki. 22:1-2 ; . 2 Ch. 34:1-7)
3. At 16, Josiah repaired the temple (2 Ki. 22:3-7; 2 Ch. 34:8-13)
4. Josiah found the book of the law (2 Ki. 22:8-20 ; 2 Chron. 34:14-21)
5. After first consulting the Lord, Josiah read the law to the people (2 Ki. 23:1-2 ; . 2 Ch. 34:29-30)
6. Josiah made a covenant with the Lord (2 Ki. 23:3; 2 Ch. 34:31-32)
7. At 20, Josiah rejected idolatry and destroyed idolatrous cults within Judah (2 Ki. 23:4-20 ; 2 Ch. 34:3.33)
8. Josiah restored (celebrated) the Passover (2 Ki. 23:21-28; 2 Ch. 35:1)
9. Death of Josiah (killed by Pharaoh Neco) (2 Ki. 23:29-30; . Ch. 35 2:20-27)

These passages were first read in French and next in Swahili to allow listeners to understand the content. Then the passages were paraphrased while emphasizing the aspects related to the theme. They were further developed by making reference to other passages of Scripture so they could be well understood.

The life of Josiah made an impact on the young people who followed carefully the teachings of the brothers. His behavior at the age of 16 allowed us to insist on the necessity of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, because it was said that “in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father” (2 Ch. 34:3). Also, his walk with God repairing His temple and his energy to abolish an established system of idolatry were an encouragement to young people who have been encouraged to follow this example and do the same in their spiritual environment.

Several questions were posed by the young people, which was an occasion for us to expand on aspects such as repentance, faith, Christian life, emancipation of the believer, the consequences of sin, and other practical issues.



At the end of the camp, many young people gave their opinion about these occasions for youth guidance and recommended us to think of others, especially young people from Kitshanga and Minova who wished to attend but who were not able to because of the limited number of young people. They proposed to take turns in the three communities (Goma, Minova, and Kitshanga) so that these young people can

participate in the camps. We liked this recommendation and we asked them to pray for this program so that the Lord Himself will provide the opportunity.

## II. THE CAPACITY OF THE ROOMS AND HOUSING

It was planned to invite 50 young people and 10 commission members, making 60 in total but we were overwhelmed by the number of participants that went sometimes up to 80. By this we understand that the interest of young people to hear the Word of God has increased, because even those who were not invited showed up and demanded to know why they were excluded. We therefore helped them to understand that the capacity of our room did not allow us to invite more than 50 participants and our ability to accommodate those from within was no more than 20 people.

So we observed that CEDIBIB conference room is beginning to become too small. Even when several brothers and sisters come to the worship meeting on Sunday with their children, it is sometimes very difficult. We believe that in the future we will be forced to expand the meeting room using the part occupied by the library and drive up CEDIBIB activities into the upper part of the building, that is to say the great hall of the floor that serves as a dormitory now. So then it would be difficult to accommodate visitors, and we might need to use other external centers for this.



## III. SAFETY

On the safety level, everything went normally. As usual, we announce in advance to local leaders the holding of camps and the day of their arrival; we give the list of people housed in CEDIBIB to the man in charge. All this happened peacefully from the beginning to the end of the camp.

## IV. SPORTS AND GAMES OF BIBLICAL CARDS (1 Timothy 4:8)

We only organized games with Bible cards, and are waiting for the right moment when the Lord will allow physical sport to also be organized during the camps.

It is now the third time these camps have been held, and many young people have played this game in the local Bible Centres and so could provide answers more easily. At the end of the competition, the first three received a special award, a Bible, to encourage others to be more involved in the reading the Word of God. Each participant also received something as an encouragement. Rewards and incentives were offered as follows:

1. For the first three:
  - The Bible (French Darby translation)
  - The Good Seed 2016
  - The brochure "The Treasures That God Gives You"
2. From the fourth until those who received at least 100 points:
  - The Good Seed 2016
  - The brochure "The Treasures That God Gives You"
3. Those whose score was between 0 and 99 points:
  - The Good Seed 2015 or 2014;
  - The brochure "The Treasures That God Gives You"

In short, the rewards distributed to the young people after the competition were:

- 3 Bibles (Darby translation)
- 68 brochures "The Treasures That God Gives You"
- 16 Good Seed 2016
- 14 Good Seed 2015
- 38 Good Seed 2014

This activity allowed us to use the Good Seed calendars from previous years that were still in our library, but we explained to the young people the wealth contained in these calendars. Although the years are already past, the value of the Word contained therein remains unchangeable.

## V. PARTICIPATION

The daily participation in youth camp was up to 61 people the 1<sup>st</sup> day, 58 people on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, and 74 people on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Among them, there were 10 people from Minova and 10 others from Kitshanga. The rest came from Goma.

## VI. GENERAL EVALUATION AND OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

During the general evaluation meeting regarding the camps already held for boys and girls, the following items were highlighted as needed improvements for future camps:

1. We need to buy two big garbage pails (one for upstairs and one for downstairs);
2. We need to buy a second tank for better maintenance of hygiene. One tank will serve for the restroom and the other for washing hands and kitchen utensils.
3. Before the camp, we need to remind the members of their roles and responsibilities in order that there is no confusion or overlapping of responsibilities, and so that nothing is missed.
4. Young people asked for rotation of the youth camps in the three centers of the area of Goma; we should take this into account next year. The 10 young people invited from each non-organizing center must be accompanied by their supervisor and the budget will take into account 11 people per center.
5. We observed that during the camps, most of the young people don't have Bibles and the ones who have them don't know how to find the verses. This 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 in the teaching, we believe it is necessary to make a certain amount of Bibles available during the camp. These Bibles will have to be given back in good condition at the end of each camp.
6. There have already been five young people's camps, 3 for boys and 2 for girls, without having any specific or general conference. So we determined that in December 2016 we organize a camp for girls to balance things. We would also like to think about other areas of the assembly for 2016, like general conferences for the Goma area, conferences about couples, teachings about the local assembly (servants), the tabernacle, etc. Supervising the young people (even for Sunday school) is the future of the assembly. We could begin to successively organize camps and other conferences so that everyone can receive regular help. In this way, the door is open to different servants called here or there to take care of specific categories of brothers or sisters in the ministry, according to the need of the souls and the ability of the servant. We observed that the teachings have a big spiritual impact when they are given by a visitor who is usually accompanied by local brothers and sisters during the teaching.
7. We will have to add in the program for young people instruction about hygiene, job initiation, etc. so that their progress can be seen by everybody, being based on the teaching of the Word of God (1 Timothy 4:15-16).
8. We need light in the bathrooms so that the people who stay in the building of the CEDIBIB (Bible Center) can move around safely during the night.
9. We need equipment to enable young people to wash their clothes and sheets and to dry at the end of the camp.
10. We continue to pray that the Lord help us to find appropriate buildings to supervise the youth in a spiritual and physical way (1 Timothy 4:8).

## VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMP

The organization and realization of the youth camp in Goma was made possible with the help of the following individuals:

Joseph Tshibinda (Goma)  
François Mwinja (Goma)  
Gilbert Bandu (Goma)  
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