

REPORT OF CONFERENCES HELD AT MPUTU BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2018 AND FEBRUARY 2019

“... Grace and peace be given to you from the one who is, who was, and who comes ...”. Revelation 1: 4

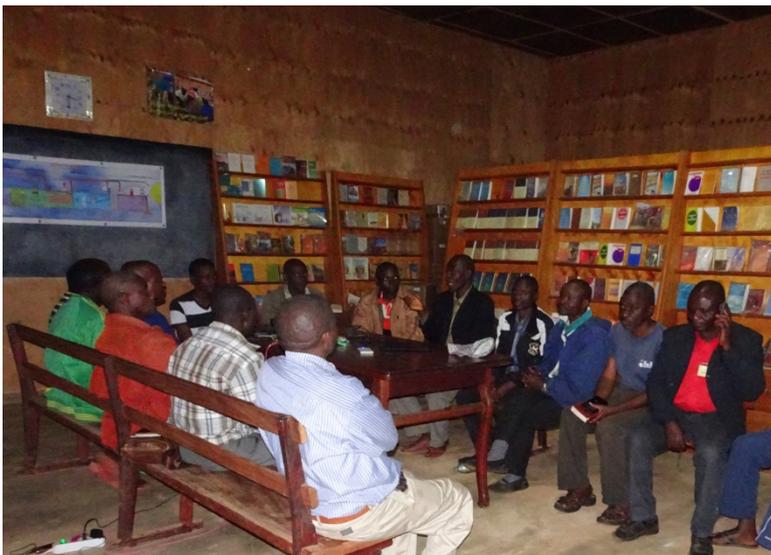
For nearly two years, a very important theme has occupied us at the conferences held for responsible brothers in Mputu (Mambasa Territory), DR Congo. This theme, entitled “From Eternity to Eternity,” includes the seven dispensations of the Bible and has allowed us to consider a large number of biblical events. It also allowed us to rightly divide the Scriptures in order to avoid the current confusion in Christendom regarding the different dispensations of the Bible. So we started from eternity past, moving towards eternity future, considering the different periods and major events that marked them.

During all these conferences, held bi-monthly at the Bible Conference Center (BCC) in Mputu, we have always started by summarizing these dispensations from Luke 16: 1-2, where we find four important characteristics of these seven dispensations: - Two parts (God and man) represented by the rich man and the steward; - the responsibility entrusted to man by God to manage his goods (testify on earth); - man has spoiled these goods entrusted to him (his failure); - henceforth he must give an account of his administration and cannot continue to be a steward (the judgment).

Each time we referred to this cycle, we noticed that in all periods God has not ceased to find a man or a group of men on earth to whom He entrusts His wealth and to whom He gives the responsibility of maintaining his testimony. However, this man or group of men has always failed in their responsibilities, although God remains faithful to His promises.

Using a specially designed booklet in French and Swahili, that includes an image of the seven dispensations, and a large banner with the timeline of the dispensations, three Bible conferences were held at Mputu/Mambasa Territory, Ituri Province, between September 2018 and February 2019, continuing the careful study of this theme that began almost two years ago. During these conferences, we went through the events between the fifth dispensation, the dispensation of the law (continuing it from the period of the kings of Israel), and the sixth period, the dispensation of grace (through the prophetic history of the assembly on earth, in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation).

These Bible conferences were for all of us moments of great spiritual blessing, the Lord nourishing souls by his Word according to the needs of each.



There were no reports prepared during the Bible conferences in September and November, so it was necessary to make an overall assessment before and after the February 22-24 conference.

< A preparatory meeting took place on February 21 and another meeting after the conference. During these meetings, the first two conferences were considered and a report for the third was also prepared.

This report briefly presents information on these three conferences.

Evaluation of the conferences from September 21-13, 2018 and from November 16-18, 2018

The development of the theme

During the Bible Conference in September, we considered the time of the two kings of Israel (Saul and David) through the return of the remnant after 70 years of captivity.

During the Bible Conference in November we addressed the 70 weeks of Daniel's years and the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus.

During these conferences, which ended on the first day of the week in the afternoons, the sisters and all those who were not invited to the conference wished to have a brief summary of the teachings from the first two days of the Bible conference.



<Bay Maurice (l) and Kitsa Thomas (r)

This summary was presented during the Sunday ministry meeting:

We talked about one or more subjects that had been studied during these Bible Conferences including:

- On Sunday, September 23, we developed the subject of the house of God on the earth during the ministry meeting. Here we reviewed the different forms in which God wanted to dwell among men: the ark of the covenant (Number 10:35-36), the tabernacle (Exodus 26:1), the temple of Solomon (1 Kings 6:1), the temple rebuilt by Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:2, Nehemiah 3), the Lord Jesus (John 2:13-22), the assembly (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:22; 1 Timothy 3:15), the millennial temple (Zechariah 6:12), the new Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12; 21:22). We also talked about the false temple that will be rebuilt for the Jews who remain after the Rapture and in which the true God will have no place (Daniel 9:27) because it is built in a purely human framework by the Antichrist and world powers during the first half of Daniel's 70th week, but which will be demolished before the reign of Christ on earth.

- On Sunday, November 18, we spoke about the two stages of the return of the Lord Jesus until the reign of a thousand years.

- On Sunday, February 24, the element that the Lord placed before our hearts was to consider deeply the greatness of the debt that the Lord Jesus paid for us on the cross, primarily by looking at some parables in the Gospels (Matthew 18: 23-35, Luke 7: 36-47, 1 Timothy 1:15) in reference to the effects of his death and resurrection for believers.

[Some of the participants at these three conferences >](#)

Participation

During these three conferences, the number of participants varied between 140 and 160 brothers, the conference being organized only for the brothers responsible in the local assemblies of the region (the Goma-Kisangani-Bunia triangle) including the towns of Butembo and Beni. During these Bible conferences, we noticed the active participation in the presentation of the Word by some responsible brothers who were temporarily released from some material or administrative tasks to focus on the Word.

Highlights and new elements

During these conferences, some aspects attracted our attention:

- The insertion of manual work into the program of activities the day before and first and second days of the conference. This activity was renamed "Various Recreational Activities" during the February 2019 conference.



- The time available for Bible study was insufficient during the first two conferences. The organizers wished to increase this time for the third conference by reducing the noon break. Also, the start time of the conference moved to 8:00 am instead of 8:30. This readjustment added about 2 hours a day for Bible study, which greatly advanced the topic.
- Active participation in teaching by the brothers responsible for the work in Mputu, especially those who have been temporarily released from some administrative and material tasks.
- The need for a sound system was also mentioned, especially for general conferences that have many participants. It was planned that the equipment already available be installed before the general conference in April 2019; the size of the room prevents those in the back from hearing some speakers.
- Given the increasing need and interest of the sisters for this topic, which was originally developed without them, it was proposed to hold a summary conference after these meetings conclude. Sisters and other interested parties will be invited in order to benefit from a synthesis on the theme.
- To increase the hours for Bible study, we have opted to set start times earlier and to decrease rest hours, starting with the February 2019 conference.

The Bible Conference from February 22-24, 2019

As expected, the conference took place despite news of the spread of Ebola virus in the region, particularly the area between Kanyabayonga and Beni, where a large number of the conference attendees came from.

Hygienic measures

To avoid cases of contamination, some preventive measures were taken, including washing hands with water and soap at all entrances to the concession area and meeting room and using a laser thermometer in our small clinic > to take temperatures for those who needed medical supervision during the conference.

In addition, handshakes and other forms of physical contact were prohibited, additional care related to concession activities was taken, and other hygienic measures in the dormitories where the participants were housed.

The conference was held with these provisions in place, and we thank the Lord for keeping us all safe until the end, without any incident.



The development of the theme

During this conference, we considered the impact of the ascension of Christ for believers and the prophetic history of the Assembly. We studied the messages of the Lord Jesus to the seven churches of Asia Minor in Revelation 2 and 3. Several practical applications on the evolution of evil in the assembly from Pentecost until the return of the Lord were given by the speakers, to the great satisfaction of all the participants, including guests and interested people coming from some of the denominations.

Future desires

This increased interest shown by the participants led to the desire to include the sisters > for the last stage of this theme, which will be devoted to eschatology (the expected return of the Lord Jesus to future eternity).

It was proposed to hold a general conference next April to close the theme of the dispensations.

In this way, everyone will be able to follow the summary of this great theme.

Final observation

This teaching on eschatology is largely ignored by most believers who are afraid to study the book of Revelation. It is of paramount importance to avoid being diverted by sects



who profit from ignorance and who convey anti-Semitic teachings and even attack the person of our Lord Jesus.

Biblical Conference Center in Mputu

At each conference, we were very grateful for the construction of the “Bible Conference Center” (BCC) in Mputu. Without these buildings, we would not be able to hold Bible conferences for responsible brothers, Bible conferences for families, or youth camps in Northeastern Congo. The Bible Conference Center > includes a large meeting room, a Christian bookstore, a small clinic, three dormitories, and some houses for brothers who assume responsibilities for the Lord’s work in this part of the Congo.

Since these brothers live at the BCC, the number of brothers and sisters in the Mputu local assembly has tripled and many neighbors attend meetings on Sunday, including an increasing number of Pygmies from six different settlements in the forest opposite our BCC.



We thank you all, brothers and sisters, who supported us financially and spiritually, that these conferences are possible. Together, you and we, lift our eyes to our Savior and Lord who is coming soon: let Him find us as He wishes, preserved without reproach when He comes (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

On behalf of all brothers involved,

Kitsa Thomas

(February 15, Goma, DR Congo)